



## S. M. Lockridge

<b>Born</b>	Shadrach Meshach Lockridge March 7, 1913 <a href="#">Robertson County, Texas</a> , U.S.
<b>Died</b>	April 4, 2000 (aged 87) San Diego, California, U.S.
<b>Occupation</b>	Author, Minister
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Subject</b>	Leadership

**Shadrach Meshach Lockridge** (March 7, 1913 – April 4, 2000) was the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church,<sup>[1]</sup> a prominent African-American congregation in [San Diego](#), California, from 1953 to 1993. He was known for his preaching across the United States and around the world.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Life and work

Lockridge was born in [Robertson County, Texas](#), the oldest of eight children and the son of a [Baptist](#) minister. A graduate of [Bishop College](#) in [Marshall, Texas](#), he worked for two years as a high school English teacher. In 1940 in [Dallas](#), he felt led to preach. In 1941 he married Virgil Mae Thompson.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1942, he accepted his first pastorate at Fourth Ward Baptist Church in [Ennis, Texas](#). In August 1952, he was named pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in [San Diego](#) where he served until retiring in 1993.<sup>[3]</sup>

During Lockridge's tenure at Calvary Baptist, a predominantly African-American congregation, his ministry reached more than 100,000 people.<sup>[2]</sup> He preached at crusades, [revivals](#), religious rallies and evangelistic conferences around the world.<sup>[2]</sup>

He also served in key regional, state and national positions with the [Baptist Church](#), including being elected as the Moderator of the Progressive Baptist District Association, President of the California Missionary Baptist State Convention, and the first president of the [National Missionary Baptist Convention of America](#), where he held all three major positions simultaneously.<sup>[2]</sup>

He held doctorates and numerous [honorary degrees](#), and was often sought as a public speaker, even after he retired in 1993. He served as guest lecturer at numerous schools and universities and on the faculty of several others, including the [Billy Graham](#) School of Evangelism.<sup>[2]</sup>

Lockridge was active in the [civil rights movement](#), and under his leadership Calvary Baptist hosted several of its leaders, including [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)<sup>[2]</sup>

Lockridge's best-known message is "Amen"<sup>[4]</sup>("That's my King!"), notably the six and a half minute description of [Jesus Christ](#) contained at the end of the hour-long sermon (the popular title comes from Lockridge's repeated refrain). [YouTube](#), [Google Videos](#), [Godtube](#), and other [video-sharing](#) websites have numerous variations of this message in [video clips](#) of varying lengths, in both English and Spanish ([subtitles](#) or with a [translator](#)), with various video and musical backdrops, and user views reaching into the multi-millions.<sup>[5]</sup>