

February 25, 2018

A Reflection on Genesis 22: 1-2; and 15 - 18

This is Just a Test

God put Abraham to a dreadful test...to offer up that which he loved the most ...his son Isaac. No matter how you read this scripture, as a father, a mother or a son.... it is incredible! How could the Creator expect Abraham – or any father – to make that choice? He could, because He knew that He would make that choice with His own Son. He **could** because He knew that we – *especially people of color* – would be tested again and again and again.

We have been tested and our fight continues, from: gerrymandering to gentrification; racism – systemic and blatant – to classism; gun violence from the inside and outside of our communities.

The Creator said we were wondrously made and precious in his sight. Like Abraham, in the midst of the test...in the middle of the struggle...despite our despair...we rise in strength, triumph and love! We stand on broad shoulders ...

- That built great kingdoms, pyramids, monuments and libraries; established universities that taught the sciences, philosophy, math, history, agriculture and architecture;
- That inspired great leaders and warriors: from Ramses II and Queen Nefertari to Barack and Michelle Obama; Mansa Musa I of Mali to Aliko Dangote of Nigeria, Queen Nzingha of Angola to Fannie Lou Hamer; King Shaka of the Zulu Nation to Nelson Mandela; and Makeda – the Queen of Sheba to Oprah Winfrey;
- That survived the Middle Passage and overcame enslavement in the Americas;
- That survived the indignities of Jim Crow, the intimidation of serial lynching's and fought for equal education, housing, public accommodations and health care; while
- Inventing the first wooden clock, the carbon filament in the electric light, the dust pan, ways to separate and store blood plasma, the gas mask, the traffic light, the golf tee, ironing board, rotary engine, technology behind the pacemaker, technology for home security systems, and hundreds more than we have time to mention!

In spite of all that stood and stands against us, we've continued to rise....and produce Benjamin Banneker, Sojourner Truth, Harriett Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Denmark Vesey, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Nat Turner, Mary McCloud Bethune, David Walker, Ida B. Wells, William Edward Burkhart Dubois, Langston Hughes; Madame C. J. Walker, Booker T. Washington, Josephine Baker, Zora Neal Hurston, Claude McKay, Alvin Ailey and Chuck Davis; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and El Haj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X), Satchel Page and Jackie Robinson; Hiram Revels and Edward R. Brooke; Jack Johnson and Mohammed Ali,

Wilma Rudolph and Althea Gibson; Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan; Nelson Mandela and Patrice LaMumba; Kwame Nkrumah and Stephen Biko; Thurgood Marshall and Julius Chambers; the Little Rock Nine and Dorothy Counts; Paul Robeson and Denzell Washington; Oscar Micheaux and Ava DuVernay; Corey Booker, Carol Moseley Braun and Barak Obama.

And still we rise ...