

GIVING UP CONTROL



IN CONTROL



USED BY GOD

NEXT TIME YOU FEEL
UNQUALIFIED TO BE
USED BY GOD,
REMEMBER THIS:
HE TENDS TO RECRUIT
FROM THE PIT.
NOT THE PEDESTAL.

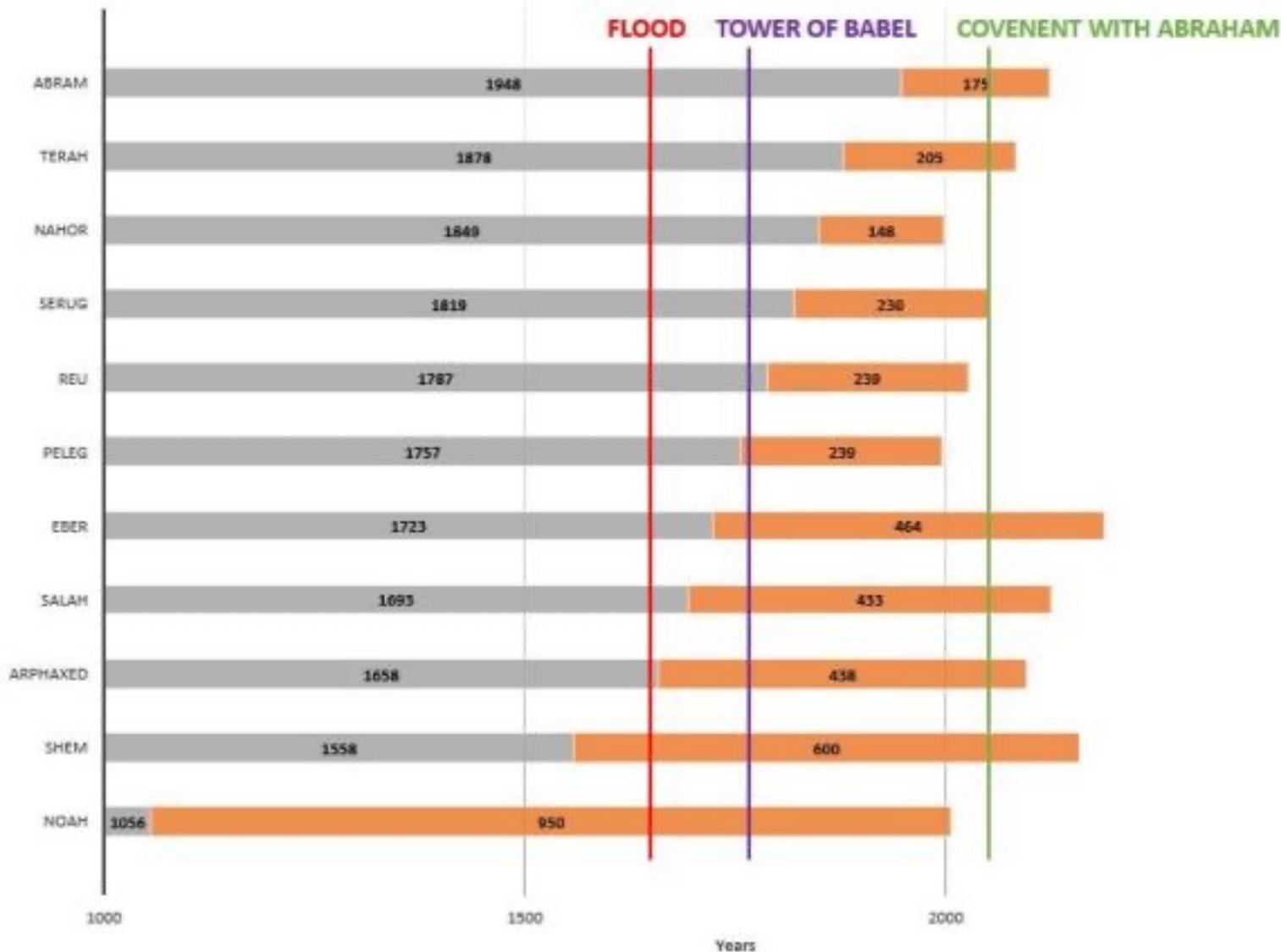


GOD DOESN'T CALL
qualified people;
HE QUALIFIES
called people.



DECLINING LIFE

Lifespan of Those in OT - After Flood



Genesis 11:27-31, “This is the account of Terah’s family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. **But Haran died** in Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth, **while his father, Terah, was still living.** Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah... **But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children.**”

One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai, and his grandson Lot (his son Haran’s child) and moved away... **He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there.**”

GOOD AS DEAD...

Abraham

“Father of many nations”

Abram

“Mighty father”



SARAI'S name means, “*high ranking woman*” – Sarai’s **barrenness** would have worked against her having a “high rank”.

Relationally barrenness was the leading cause of **divorce**. **Socially**, because barrenness was seen as a **judgement** from the gods. In the **afterlife**, descendants were believed to sustain the dead... **Personally**, Sarai would have experienced incredible **sadness**.

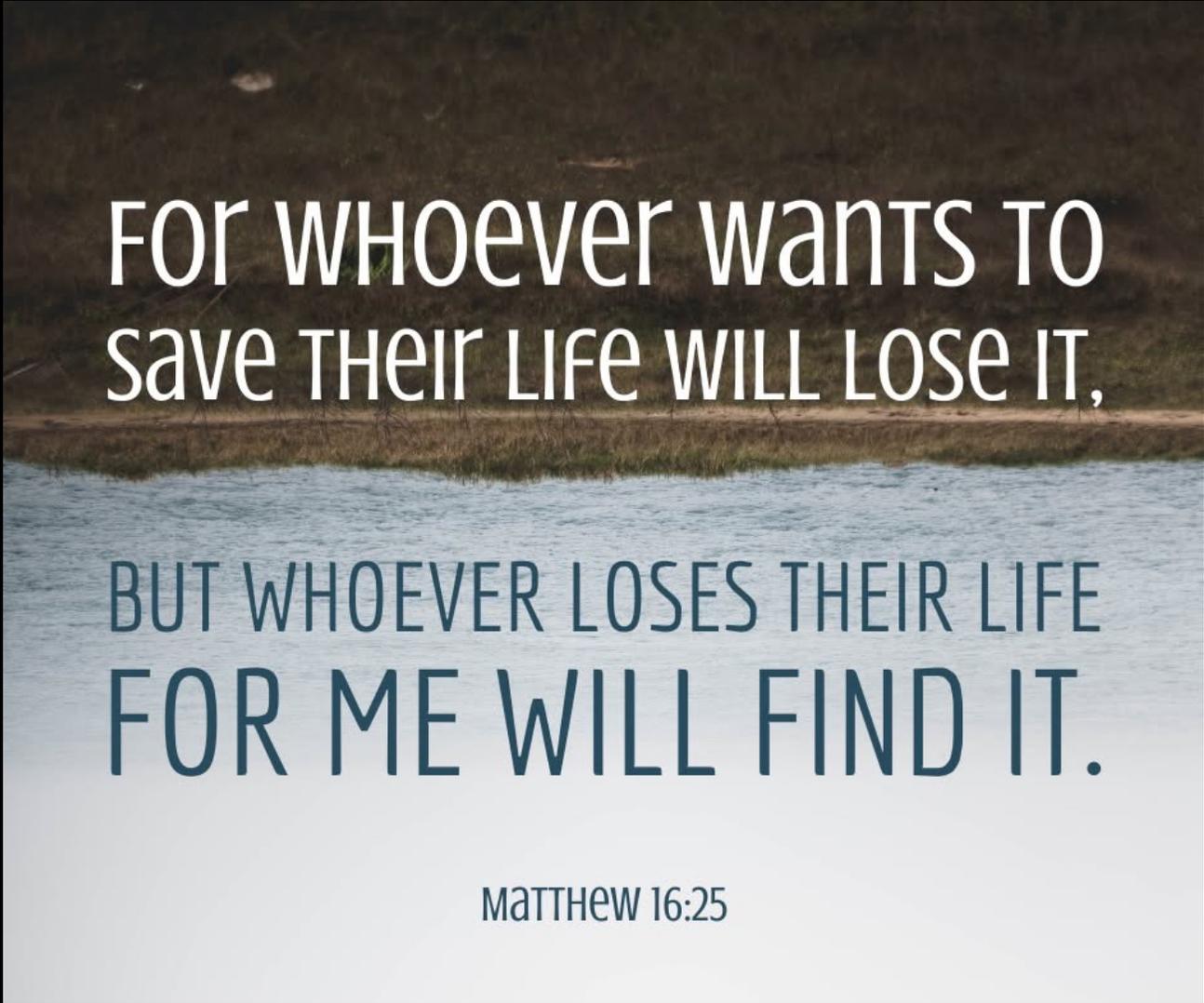
Later she is called ‘**SARAH**’ which means “*mother of nations*.”

Romans 4:19, “Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that **his body was as good as dead**—since he was about a hundred years old—and that **Sarah’s womb was also dead.**”

THE CALL OF GOD

“God’s call is one “to abandonment, renunciation, and relinquishment. It is a call for a dangerous departure from the presumed world of norms and security... The narrative knows that such departure from securities is the only way out of barrenness. The whole of the Abrahamic narrative is premised on this seeming contradiction: to stay in safety is to remain barren; to leave in risk is to have hope.”

W A L T E R B R U E G G E M A N N



FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO
SAVE THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT,

BUT WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE
FOR ME WILL FIND IT.

MATTHEW 16:25

GO AND I WILL SHOW YOU

“The Lord said to Abram:
Go from your land,
your relatives,
and your father’s house
to the land that
I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1

