

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

SONS OF THE PROPHETS' WIDOW INTRODUCTION

by Sandy Harber

In ancient Israel, seasoned prophets such as Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha provided instruction to young men who felt called to be prophets themselves. The young men who attended these schools were known as the Sons of the Prophets.

Scripture records the story of one young widow whose husband had belonged to the Sons of the Prophets. We don't know her name or the name of her husband. But we do know that the young man was a student of the Prophet Elisha. And we know that his unexpected death left his widow and fatherless children in debt and at the mercy of his creditor.

Our young widow, determined to protect her children, approached the prophet for assistance. Elisha, for his part, was willing to help out the family of his former student. Wisely, the widow cooperated with Elisha and obeyed all of his instructions completely. And God miraculously rewarded her efforts over and above that which she requested.

This short history of the widow (7 verses) is recorded in II Kings 4. It reminds us that we do not exist in a vacuum. We need help from our fellowman from time to time. But, at the same time, we need to commit to doing all we can to work out our own problems. And, most importantly, the widow's story assures us that God is willing and able to provide for His Own.