

## ~WIDOW (720)

.. Concern Of Yehowah And Christ For Widows

.. Christian Assistance To Widows

.. Figurative Use

- **A woman who has lost her husband in death and has not remarried.** Death of the husband severs the marriage bond, leaving the widow free to remarry if she chooses to do so.
- Finally Naomi said to both of her daughters-in-law; Go, return, each one to the house of her mother. May Yehowah exercise loving-kindness toward you, just as you have exercised it toward the men now dead and toward me. (**Ruth 1:8**)
- May Yehowah make a gift to you, and do you find a resting-place each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they began to raise their voices and weep. (**Ruth 1:9**)
- And they kept saying to her; No, but with you we shall return to your people. (**Ruth 1:10**)
- But Naomi said; Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I still have sons in my inward parts, and will they have to become your husband's? (**Ruth 1:11**)
- Return, my daughters, go, for I have grown too old to get to belong to a husband. If I had said I had hope also that I should certainly become a husbands tonight and also should certainly bear sons. (**Ruth 1:12**)
- Would you keep waiting for them until they could grow up? Would you keep yourselves secluded for them so as not to become a husbands? No, my daughters, for it is very bitter to me because of you, that the hand of Yehowah has gone out against me. (**Ruth 1:13**)
- For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her husband while he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the Law of her husband. (**Romans 7:2**)
- So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies,

- she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (**Romans 7:3**)
- Now I say to the unmarried persons and the **widows**, it is well for them that they remain even as I am. (**1 Corinthians 7:8**)
  - But if they do not have self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be inflamed with passion. (**1 Corinthians 7:9**)
  - Under the patriarchal arrangement, and later under the Mosaic Law, the brother of a man who had died childless was to take his brother's **widow** as his wife and have a child by her, to carry on the line of her deceased husband.
  - In view of that Judah said to Onan; Have relations with your brother's wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her and raise up offspring for your brother. (**Genesis 38:8**)
  - In case brothers dwell together and one of them has died without his having a son, the wife of the dead one should not become a strange man's outside. Her brother-in-law should go to her, and he must take her as his wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her. (**Deuteronomy 25:5**)
  - And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 25:6**)
  - Now if the man finds no delight in taking his brother's **widow**, his brother's widow must then go up to the gate to the older men and say; My husband's brother has refused to preserve his brother's name in Israel. He has not consented to perform brother-in-law marriage with me. (**Deuteronomy 25:7**)
  - And the older men of his city must call him and speak to him, and he must stand and say; I have found no delight in taking her. (**Deuteronomy 25:8**)
  - At that his brother's **widow** must approach him before the eyes of the older men and draw his sandal off his foot and spit in his face and answer and say; That is the way it should be done to the man who will not build up his brother's household. (**Deuteronomy 25:9**)

- **And his name must be called in Israel, The house of the one who had his sandal drawn off. (Deuteronomy 25:10)**
- **He now said to the repurchaser; The tract of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, must sell. (Ruth 4:3)**
- **As for me, I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying; Buy it in front of the inhabitants and the older men of my people. If you will repurchase it, repurchase it, but if you will not repurchase it, do tell me, that I may know, for there is no one else but you to do the repurchasing, and I am next to you. At that he said; I shall be the one to repurchase it. (Ruth 4:4)**
- **Then Boaz said; On the day that you buy the field from Naomi's hand, it is also from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, that you must buy it so as to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance. (Ruth 4:5)**
- **To this the repurchaser said; I am unable to repurchase it for myself, for fear I may ruin my own inheritance. You repurchase it for yourself with my right of repurchase, because I am not able to do the repurchasing. (Ruth 4:6)**
- **Now this was the custom of former times in Israel concerning the right of repurchase and concerning the exchange, to establish every sort of thing. A man had to draw his sandal off and give it to his fellow, and this was the attestation in Israel. (Ruth 4:7)**
- **So when the repurchaser said to Boaz; Buy it for yourself, he proceeded to draw his sandal off. (Ruth 4:8)**
- **Then Boaz said to the older men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (Ruth 4:9)**
- **And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (Ruth 4:10)**

## **See Also BROTHER-IN-LAW MARRIAGE**

- Upon the death of their mate, **widows** could return to the house of their father.
- So Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law; Dwell as a **widow** in the house of your father until Shelah my son grows up. For he said to himself; He too may die like his brothers. Accordingly Tamar went and continued to dwell at her own father's house. (**Genesis 38:11**)
- In the Law, specific provision to this effect was made for the daughter of a priest who became **widowed** or was divorced. Since the priest received tithes for his households sustenance, the daughter could share in this provision.
- This assured that she would not face poverty, and thus averted reproach that might otherwise have come upon the priesthood.
- But in case the daughter of a priest should become a **widow** or divorced when she has no offspring, and she must return to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat some of her fathers bread, but no stranger at all may feed on it. (**Leviticus 22:13**)
- For those **widows** who had no such support or protection, provisions were made in God's Law for them to enjoy gleaners rights in the fields, olive groves, and vineyards.
- In case you reap your harvest in your field, and you have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you must not go back to get it. It should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the **widow**, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand. (**Deuteronomy 24:19**)
- In case you beat your olive tree, you must not go over its boughs following up yourself. It should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the **widow**. (**Deuteronomy 24:20**)
- In case you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not gather the leftovers following up yourself. They should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the **widow**. (**Deuteronomy 24:21**)
- To participate in the bounteous celebration each year at festivals.

- Then you must celebrate the festival of weeks to Yehowah your God, according to the voluntary offering of your hand that you will give, just as Yehowah your God may bless you. (Deuteronomy 16:10)
- And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite who is inside your gates and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the **widow**, who are in your midst, in the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there. (Deuteronomy 16:11)
- And you must remember that you became a slave in Egypt, and you must observe and carry out these regulations. (Deuteronomy 16:12)
- The festival of booths you should celebrate for yourself seven days when you make an ingathering from your threshing floor and your oil and winepress. (Deuteronomy 16:13)
- And you must rejoice during your festival, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the **widow**, who are inside your gates. (Deuteronomy 16:14)
- And, every third year, to share in the tithes that were contributed by the nation.
- At the end of three years you will bring out the entire tenth part of your produce in that year, and you must deposit it inside your gates. (Deuteronomy 14:28)
- And the Levite, because he has no share or inheritance with you, and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the **widow**, who are inside your gates, must come, and they must eat and satisfy themselves, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand that you will do. (Deuteronomy 14:29)
- When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the Levite, the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the **widow**, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves. (Deuteronomy 26:12)

- And you must say before Yehowah your God, I have cleared away what is holy from the house and I have also given it to the Levite and the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the **widow**, in accord with all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not overstepped your commandments, nor have I forgotten. (**Deuteronomy 26:13**)

## •• Concern Of Yehowah And Christ For Widows

- Yehowah spoke of himself as the One executing judgment for the fatherless boy and the **widow**.
- Executing judgment for the fatherless boy and the **widow** and loving the alien resident so as to give him bread and a mantle. (**Deuteronomy 10:18**)
- Strong injunctions are given in the Law as to the administration of full and equal justice to **widows**.
- You people must not afflict any **widow** or fatherless boy. (**Exodus 22:22**)
- If you should afflict him at all, then if he cries out to me at all, I shall unfailingly hear his outcry. (**Exodus 22:23**)
- And my anger will indeed blaze, and I shall certainly kill you with the sword, and your wives must become **widows** and your sons fatherless boys. (**Exodus 22:24**)
- You must not pervert the judgment of the alien resident or of the fatherless boy, and you must not seize the garment of a **widow** as a pledge. (**Deuteronomy 24:17**)
- A curse was pronounced upon those perverting the judgment of **widows**.
- Cursed is the one who perverts the judgment of an alien resident, a fatherless boy and a **widow**. And all the people must say; Amen! (**Deuteronomy 27:19**)
- And proper treatment of **widows** was urged in the writings of the prophets.

- Learn to do good. Search for justice. Set right the oppressor. Render judgment for the fatherless boy. Plead the cause of the **widow**. (**Isaiah 1:17**)
- Your princes are stubborn and partners with thieves. Every one of them is a lover of a bribe and a chaser after gifts. For a fatherless boy they do not render judgment, and even the legal case of a **widow** does not get admittance to them. (**Isaiah 1:23**)
- Woe to those who are enacting harmful regulations and those who, constantly writing, have written out sheer trouble. (**Isaiah 10:1**)
- In order to push away the lowly ones from a legal case and to wrest away justice from the afflicted ones of my people, for the **widows** to become their spoil, and that they may plunder even the fatherless boys! (**Isaiah 10:2**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; Render justice and righteousness, and deliver the one that is being robbed out of the hand of the defrauder, and do not maltreat any alien resident, fatherless boy or **widow**. Do them no violence. And do not shed any innocent blood in this place. (**Jeremiah 22:3**)
- Father and mother they have treated with contempt in you. Toward the alien resident they have acted with defrauding in the midst of you. Fatherless boy and **widow** they have maltreated in you. (**Ezekiel 22:7**)
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; With true justice do your judging, and carry on with one another loving-kindness and mercies. (**Zechariah 7:9**)
- And defraud no **widow** or fatherless boy, no alien resident or afflicted one, and scheme out nothing bad against one another in your hearts. (**Zechariah 7:10**)
- And I will come near to you people for the judgment, and I will become a speedy witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against those swearing falsely, and against those acting fraudulently with the wages of a wage worker, with the **widow** and with the fatherless boy, and those turning away the alien resident, while they have not feared me, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 3:5**)

- Jesus displayed his concern for the welfare of the **widows** in Israel when he condemned the scribes as the ones devouring the houses of the widows.
- And in his teaching he went on to say; Look out for the scribes that want to walk around in robes and want greetings in the marketplaces. (**Mark 12:38**)
- And front seats in the synagogues and most prominent places at evening meals. (**Mark 12:39**)
- They are the ones devouring the houses of the **widows** and for a pretext making long prayers, these will receive a heavier judgment. (**Mark 12:40**)
- Look out for the scribes who desire to walk around in robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and front seats in the synagogues and most prominent places at evening meals. (**Luke 20:46**)
- And who devour the houses of the **widows** and for a pretext make long prayers. These will receive a heavier judgment. (**Luke 20:47**)

## .. Christian Assistance To Widows

- During the emergency that arose in the Christian congregation shortly after the day of Pentecost **33 C.E.**, the Greek-speaking **widows** were being overlooked in the daily distribution.
- When this was brought to the attention of the apostles, they considered the matter so important that they appointed seven certified men full of spirit and wisdom, to supervise the distribution of food with equity.
- Now in these days, when the disciples were increasing, a murmuring arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their **widows** were being overlooked in the daily distribution. (**Acts of Apostles 6:1**)
- So the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said; It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (**Acts of Apostles 6:2**)



- So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them over this necessary business. (**Acts of Apostles 6:3**)
- But we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 6:4**)
- And the thing spoken was pleasing to the whole multitude, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 6:5**)
- And they placed them before the apostles, and, after having prayed, these laid their hands upon them. (**Acts of Apostles 6:6**)
- The apostle Paul, at;
- Honor **widows** that are actually widows. (**1 Timothy 5:3**)
- But if any **widow** has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice godly devotion in their own household and to keep paying a due compensation to their parents and grandparents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. (**1 Timothy 5:4**)
- Now the woman who is actually a **widow** and left destitute has put her hope in God and persists in supplications and prayers night and day. (**1 Timothy 5:5**)
- But the one that goes in for sensual gratification is dead though she is living. (**1 Timothy 5:6**)
- So keep on giving these commands, that they may be irreprehensible. (**1 Timothy 5:7**)
- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)
- Let a **widow** be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. (**1 Timothy 5:9**)

- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (**1 Timothy 5:10**)
- On the other hand, turn down younger **widows**, for when their sexual impulses have come between them and the Christ, they want to marry. (**1 Timothy 5:11**)
- Having a judgment because they have disregarded their first expression of faith. (**1 Timothy 5:12**)
- At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. (**1 Timothy 5:13**)
- Therefore I desire the younger **widows** to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. (**1 Timothy 5:14**)
- Already, in fact, some have been turned aside to follow Satan. (**1 Timothy 5:15**)
- If any believing woman has **widows**, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden. Then it can relieve those who are actually widows. (**1 Timothy 5:16**)
- Gave complete instructions for the loving care of **widows** in the Christian congregation. The congregation was to care for destitute widows.
- But if the **widow** had children or grandchildren, they should assume the responsibility of providing for her needs, or, as Paul instructed, if any believing woman has **widows**, that is, **widows** related to her, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden.
- Then it can relieve those who are actually **widows**, that is, actually bereaved, without help. A **widow** put on the list for material help by the congregation was one who has become not less than sixty years old, having a good record of morality, of faithful and loving devotion to Yehowah, and of hospitality and love toward others.

- On the other hand, the apostle recommends that young widows remarry, bear children, and manage a household, thereby avoiding a snare because of sexual impulses and the danger of being unoccupied, gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs.
- Jesus half brother James highlighted the importance of looking after orphans and **widows** in their tribulation when, as a requisite for worship that is clean and undefiled from God's standpoint, he set it parallel with keeping oneself without spot from the world.
- The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this. To look after orphans and **widows** in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world. (**James 1:27**)
- Among the **widows** of notable faith are Tamar.
- In time Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. (**Genesis 38:6**)
- But Er, Judah's firstborn, proved to be bad in the eyes of Yehowah, hence Yehowah put him to death. (**Genesis 38:7**)
- Naomi and Ruth,
- In time Elimelech the husband of Naomi died, so that she remained with her two sons. (**Ruth 1:3**)
- Later the men took wives for themselves, Moabite women. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (**Ruth 1:4**)
- In time the two of them, Mahlon and Chilion, also died, so that the woman remained without her two children and her husband. (**Ruth 1:5**)
- Abigail
- And it came about in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, that his wife went telling him these things. And his heart came to be dead inside him, and he himself became as a stone. (**1 Samuel 25:37**)
- And it came about in the morning, when the wine had gone out

of Nabal, that his wife went telling him these things. And his heart came to be dead inside him, and he himself became as a stone. (1 Samuel 25:37)

- Then Abigail hastened and rose up and went riding on the ass with five maids of hers walking behind her, and she went accompanying the messengers of David and then became his wife. (1 Samuel 25:42)
- **Widow** of Zarephath
- The word of Yehowah now came to him, saying; (1 Kings 17:8)
- Rise up, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and you must dwell there. Look! I shall certainly command there a woman, a **widow**, to supply you food. (1 Kings 17:9)
- Accordingly he rose up and went to Zarephath and came into the entrance of the city, and, look! A woman, a **widow**, was there gathering up pieces of wood. So he called to her and said; Please, get me a sip of water in a vessel that I may drink. (1 Kings 17:10)
- When she began to go and get it, he went on to call to her and say; Please, get me a bit of bread in your hand. (1 Kings 17:11)
- At this she said; As Yehowah your God is living, I have no round cake, but a handful of flour in the large jar and a little oil in the small jar, and here I am gathering up a few pieces of wood, and I must go in and make something for myself and my son, and we shall have to eat it and die. (1 Kings 17:12)
- Then Elijah said to her; Do not be afraid. Go in, do according to your word. Only from what is there make me a small round cake first, and you must bring it out to me, and for yourself and your son you can make something afterward. (1 Kings 17:13)
- For this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; The large jar of flour itself will not get exhausted, and the small jar of oil itself will not fail until the day of Yehowah's giving a downpour upon the surface of the ground. (1 Kings 17:14)
- So she went and did according to Elijah's word, and she continued to eat, she together with him and her household, for

days. (1 Kings 17:15)

- The large jar of flour itself did not get exhausted, and the small jar of oil itself did not fail, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken by means of Elijah. (1 Kings 17:16)
- And it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick, and his sickness came to be so severe that there was no breath left in him. (1 Kings 17:17)
- At this she said to Elijah; What do I have to do with you, O man of the true God? You have come to me to bring my error to mind and to put my son to death. (1 Kings 17:18)
- But he said to her; Give me your son. Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the roof chamber, where he was dwelling, and laid him upon his own couch. (1 Kings 17:19)
- And he began calling to Yehowah and saying; O Yehowah my God, is it also upon the **widow** with whom I am residing as an alien that you must bring injury by putting her son to death? (1 Kings 17:20)
- And he proceeded to stretch himself upon the child three times and call to Yehowah and say; O Yehowah my God, please, cause the soul of this child to come back within him. (1 Kings 17:21)
- Finally Yehowah listened to Elijah's voice, so that the soul of the child came back within him and he came to life. (1 Kings 17:22)
- Elijah now took the child and brought him down from the roof chamber into the house and gave him to his mother, and Elijah then said; See, your son is alive. (1 Kings 17:23)
- Upon that the woman said to Elijah; Now, indeed, I do know that you are a man of God and that Yehowah's word in your mouth is true. (1 Kings 17:24)
- Anna the prophetess.
- Now there was Anna a prophetess, Phanuel's daughter, of Asher's tribe, this woman was well along in years, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity. (Luke 2:36)

- And she was a **widow** now eighty-four years old, who was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications. (**Luke 2:37**)
- Luke's description of Anna with the qualifications of a worthy widow as outlined by Paul at;
- Honor **widows** that are actually widows. (**1 Timothy 5:3**)
- But if any **widow** has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice godly devotion in their own household and to keep paying a due compensation to their parents and grandparents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. (**1 Timothy 5:4**)
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- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)
- Let a **widow** be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. (**1 Timothy 5:9**)
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (**1 Timothy 5:10**)
- On the other hand, turn down younger **widows**, for when their sexual impulses have come between them and the Christ, they want to marry. (**1 Timothy 5:11**)
- Having a judgment because they have disregarded their first expression of faith. (**1 Timothy 5:12**)

- At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. (1 Timothy 5:13)
- Therefore I desire the younger **widows** to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. (1 Timothy 5:14)
- Already, in fact, some have been turned aside to follow Satan. (1 Timothy 5:15)
- If any believing woman has **widows**, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden. Then it can relieve those who are actually **widows**. (1 Timothy 5:16)
- Also, an unnamed **widow** was highly commended by Jesus because she contributed all of what she had to the temple.
- And he sat down with the treasury chests in view and began observing how the crowd was dropping money into the treasury chests, and many rich people were dropping in many coins. (Mark 12:41)
- Now a poor **widow** came and dropped in two small coins, which have very little value. (Mark 12:42)
- So he called his disciples to him and said to them; Truly I say to you that this poor **widow** dropped in more than all those dropping money into the treasury chests. (Mark 12:43)
- For they all dropped in out of their surplus, but she, out of her want, dropped in all of what she had, her whole living. (Mark 12:44)

## .. Figurative Use

- Cities, when cast off and desolated, are symbolically likened to **widows**.
- O how she has come to sit solitary, the city that was abundant with people! How she has become like a **widow**, she that was populous among the nations! How she that was a princess

among the jurisdictional districts has come to be for forced labor!  
([Lamentations 1:1](#))

- For Israel and Judah are not **widowed** from their God, from Yehowah of armies. For the land of those has been full of guilt from the standpoint of the Holy One of Israel. ([Jeremiah 51:5](#))
- Babylon the Great, the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth, boasts, like her type, ancient Babylon, that she will never become a **widow**. Nevertheless, just as ancient Babylon did indeed become a **widow**, so will modern Babylon the Great.
- And now hear this, you pleasure-given woman, the one sitting in security, the one saying in her heart; I am, and there is nobody else. I shall not sit as a **widow**, and I shall not know the loss of children. ([Isaiah 47:8](#))
- But to you these two things will come suddenly, in one day: loss of children and **widowhood**. In their complete measure they must come upon you, for the abundance of your sorceries, for the full might of your spells, exceedingly. ([Isaiah 47:9](#))
- And the woman whom you saw means the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth. ([Revelation 17:18](#))
- To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For in her heart she keeps saying; I sit a queen, and I am no **widow**, and I shall never see mourning. ([Revelation 18:7](#))
- That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. ([Revelation 18:8](#))