OET Open English Translation

Open English Translation of the Bible

The first letter from

Shim'on 'the Rock' (Peter)

Introduction

The first letter from Shim'on 'Kefa' was written to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor (also called Anatolia, now part of modern Turkey). Kefa wrote to encourage the believers that it's necessary for them to be strong even in the middle of much persecution that comes because of their faith in the messiah. He reminds them about their salvation, the death of Yeshua the messiah, and of his coming back to life. Because Kefa told them that there must always remember their hope in heaven, then they can persevere even through all the difficulties here on earth. He also reminds them that if their faith holds strong through their suffering of difficulties and persecutions, they will receive a gift at "The time when Yeshua the messiah is revealed." (1:7,13)
He also warns them that it's necessary to watch their behaviour as followers of the messiah and it's necessary that they follow the guidance of their elders.

Main components of Kefa's letter

Introduction *1:1-2*
The reminder about the future benefits of salvation *1:3-12*
Encouragement about godly living *1:13–2:10*
Respecting those who have authority over us *2:11–3:7*
Advice concerning the coming persecutions *3:8–4:19*
Advice for teachers and believers *5:1-11*
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Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This letter is from Kefa (Peter; Grk. Petros), an ambassador for **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**.

It's written to those people who've been chosen by God and dispersed by persecution throughout the provinces of Pontos, Galatia, Kappadokia, Asia Minor, and Bithunia. 2 They were chosen in advance by **God** the father by his pure **spirit**, thanks to the obedience **of Yeshua the messiah** and the sprinkling of his blood.

May God give you grace and abundant peace.

The future hope of life without ending

3 May **God**, the father of our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah** be blessed. He's the **one** who, because of his incredible mercy, births us into living hope through the death and coming back to life **of Yeshua the messiah**. 4 Now we have an inheritance that can't be destroyed or ruined and never diminishes. It's kept in the heavens for you chosen people, 5 who are guarded through faith by **God's** power, because the rescue is ready to be revealed in the final age.

6 This rescue brings some happiness now, although offset by the sorrow of various trials that you go through 7 in order that your faith will be purified by fire, like gold, but even more precious, because gold corrodes. Then your faith will lead to praise and glory and honour when **Yeshua the messiah** is revealed, 8 the one you chosen people love, even though you've never seen him. Yet you believe, and because of that, you're happier than you can even show, AND HAVING BEEN GLORIFIED, 9 you'll receive the result of your faith, which is that your souls are rescued.

10 The prophets wanted that rescue and searched for it, even while speaking about the grace which you chosen people would experience. 11 They tried to discover which person or what time the messiah's **spirit** within them was telling them **about**, having previously testified that **the messiah** would suffer but afterwards would be GLORIOUS. 12 It was shown to them that they weren't just serving themselves, but were serving you as they declared all the same things that have been preached to you **by the** holy **spirit** who was sent from heaven. Even God's messengers in heaven wanted to know more about those things.

The holy behaviour of believers

13 So take this seriously and get your minds prepared, putting your full hope in the grace that'll be brought to you by **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah** being revealed. 14 As people who want to obey, don't conform to your earlier desires that came from your ignorance, 15 but just as God who called you is holy, your yourselves need to be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it's been written that 'you'll be holy people because I am holy.'[1]

17 And since you call on the father who impartially judges each person according to their actions, continue to obey him even as you live as foreigners, 18 knowing that when you were in slavery due to your poor conduct that you inherited from your ancestors, you weren't bought out of that by payment of things that decay like silver or gold, 19 but by the precious blood **of the messiah**—the unblemished and spotless lamb.[2] 20 He'd been known before the world was created, yet he was only recently revealed for the sake of you chosen people 21 who believe in God through him. **God** was the one who raised him from the dead and honoured him, so that your faith and hope would be in **God**.

22 Since your souls have been purified by obeying the truth, now you should love each other from your hearts and without hypocrisy. 23 You've been born again, not growing from some physical thing that'll decay, but from indestructible material—**God's** message that's alive and lives on, 24 because it's written:

'All flesh is like grass,
and the beauty of our bodies like its flower.
The grass will wither and its flower will drop,

1 **RV 1:16 · Cross-ref.** Lev 11:44-45; 19:2.

2 **RV 1:19 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:5.

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25 but **Yahweh's** message will last till the
end **of** the age.'[3]
And that's the good message that's been
preached to you chosen people.
2:1 So then, get rid of all malice and deceit,
and hypocrisy and envy, and slandering others.
2 Just like newborn babies long for pure milk so
they'll grow, you should cultivate a thirst for
what'll help you grow as people who are res-
cued, 3 since you've tasted that **Yahweh** is
good.[4]

The vital building-stone and the believers

4 As you chosen people approach the living
building-stone (which was rejected by humans yet chosen and honoured by **God**), 5 you're being built into a temple and joining a holy group of priests to offer up *spiritual* sacrifices that are acceptable **to God** through **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**, 6 because it's written in the scriptures:

'Look, I'm placing a building-stone in Tsiyon
(Zion),
the vital cornerstone that's chosen and hon-
oured,
and anyone who believes in him certainly
won't be disgraced.'[5]

7 To all of you who believe, this cornerstone is
valuable, but to those who don't believe:

'The building-stone which the builders re-
jected
ended up becoming the vital cornerstone.'[6]

8 and he'll be:

'A stone that people stumble over
and a rock that upsets people.'[7]

They stumble because they won't believe in the
message—this is what was appointed for them.

9 But you believers are a chosen tribe, a group
of royal priests, a holy nation,[8] a people group
that God has procured,[9] so that you can tell
others about the virtues of the one[10] who called
you out of darkness and into his marvellous
light.[11] 10 Previously you weren't a people
group, but now you're **God's** people—previ-
ously you hadn't been shown mercy, but now
you have been.[12]

Battling worldly desires

11 Dear friends, I'm urging you as travellers and foreigners to keep away from the world's temptations, which are in a battle against your soul.
12 Even as you, friends, live among the world's
people, maintain your good conduct so that
when they slander you by calling you 'evil', at
the time of **God's** judgement they'll have to
honour **god** when they see your good be-
haviour.

13 Submit yourselves to every human author-
ity, because you obey the **master**, whether it's
to the king who rules, 14 or the governors he
sends to punish those who do evil and to praise
those who do good. 15 **God** wants you chosen
people to silence the ignorant talk of foolish
people by doing good. 16 Live like free people,
but don't use that freedom to cover up
evil—use it as **God's** slaves. 17 Honour others
and be loving towards your fellow believers. Re-
vere **God** as well as honouring the king.

Doing good despite suffering

18 You who are house-servants should respectfully obey your masters—not only the good and gentle ones, but also the crooked ones, 19 because God favours those who endure unjust hardships because of their godly con-

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3 **RV 1:24-25 · Cross-ref.** Isa 40:6-8 (LXX).

4 **RV 2:3 · Cross-ref.** Psa 34:8.

5 **RV 2:6 · Cross-ref.** Isa 28:16 (LXX).

6 **RV 2:7 · Cross-ref.** Psa 118:22.

7 **RV 2:8 · Cross-ref.** Isa 8:14-15.

8 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:5-6; Isa 43:20 (LXX).

9 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:5; Deu 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; Tit 2:14.

10 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Isa 43:21.

11 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Isa 9:2.

12 **RV 2:10 · Cross-ref.** Hos 2:23.

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sciences. 20 What good would it do if you were
enduring being beaten because of doing evil?
But if you endure suffering for doing good,
then **God** will be pleased with your behaviour,
21 because that's what we're called to, because
the messiah also suffered for you chosen peo-
ple. He left an example for you, so that you can
follow in his steps: 22 he didn't do evil or say
anything that wasn't true,[13] 23 when he was in-
sulted he didn't retaliate, when he was perse-
cuted he didn't threaten,[14] but put his trust in
the one who'll judge everyone with true justice.
24 He sacrificed his own body on the wooden
post for *our* sins, so that when we die to sin we
can live for righteousness. By his wounds, you
chosen people were healed.[15] 25 He did all that
because you were like lost sheep, but now
you've returned to your souls' shepherd and
overseer.

Advice to married couples

3:1 Similarly, women
should be subject to their
husbands,[16] so that if any of them don't believe
the message, they'll be won by their wives' be-
haviour even without hearing the message,
2 because they'll be able to observe their wives'
pure behaviour. 3 These women shouldn't focus
on outward appearances like elaborate
hairstyles, or gold jewellery or expensive
clothes,[17] 4 but on the inner person with a gen-
tle and quiet spirit that's indestructible and
which **God** considers precious. 5 That was how
holy women in the past adorned them-
selves—those whose hope was in **God**, 6 like
Sarah, who submitted to Avraham who you've
become descendants of. She called him 'mas-
ter',[18] doing good and without any worries.

7 Similarly, men should live with their wives
with understanding, like how you'd handle
something more fragile. They should display
honour to their fellow recipients of life-giving
grace[19] so that their prayers won't be hindered.

Suffering for doing good

8 Finally, everyone
should be agreeable and
sympathetic to others, kind and caring towards
those around you, humble 9 and not repaying
evil with evil or insult with insult, but rather be
a blessing to others. You were called to do that
so that you chosen people can receive a bless-
ing, 10 because it's written:

'The person wanting to enjoy life and see
good days,
let their tongue cease from evil,
and their lips not speak deceit.
11 Let them turn away from evil and do good,
let them look for peace and chase after it,
12 because **Yahweh** looks kindly on the righ-
teous,
and his ears listen to their petition,
but **Yahweh** turns his face away from those
who do evil.'[20]

13 Who's going to mistreat you if you chosen
people start actively doing good? 14 But even if
some of you do suffer because of your godli-
ness, you will be blessed.[21] Don't be scared or
disturbed because of your fear of them, 15 but
revere the **messiah** as the **master** of your
hearts. Always be ready to explain the hope
that you chosen people have if **anyone** asks,
16 but do it with gentleness and respect, keep-
ing a clear conscience, so that if you're falsely
accused of doing evil, then the ones who'll be
disgraced will be the ones who mistreat you
chosen people, because of the good way you
live because of the message. 17 After all, it's bet-

13 **RV 2:22 · Cross-ref.** Isa 53:9.
14 **RV 2:23 · Cross-ref.** Isa 53:7.
15 **RV 2:24-25 · Cross-ref.** Isa 53:5-6 (LXX).
16 **RV 3:1 · Cross-ref.** Eph 5:22; Col 3:18.
17 **RV 3:3 · Cross-ref.** 1Tim 2:9.
18 **RV 3:6 · Cross-ref.** Gen 18:12.
19 **RV 3:7 · Cross-ref.** Eph 5:25; Col 3:19.
20 **RV 3:10-12 · Cross-ref.** Psa 34:12-16 (LXX).
21 **RV 3:14 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:10.

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ter to do good, and then, if **God** intends it, to
suffer, than to do evil, 18 because **the messiah**
also died once for sin, that is, the sinless one
died for sinful people, so that he can bring you
chosen people past death onward **to God**. Al-
though he experienced physical death, he'd
been given life **in the spirit**, 19 and with that
life he also went to the spirits in prison and
preached to them— 20 those who'd refused to
believe. **God** had waited patiently in Noah's
time when the barge was being built, yet only a
few were saved. Eight of them were brought
safely through the waters,[22] 21 which also rep-
resents how being immersed saved you chosen
people. It doesn't remove the filth from your
bodies, but cleans the conscience as you make a
pledge to **God** based on the coming back to life
of Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah,
22 who went to heaven and sat at **God's** right,
with God's messengers and authorities and
powers all under his authority.

Leaving worldly desires behind

4:1 Since **the messiah** suffered physically, you
chosen people should also cultivate the same
intention, because **anyone** who suffers physi-
cally stops sinning 2 so that they can live their
remaining physical lives obeying **God's** inten-
tions instead of this world's lusts, 3 because
enough time has been spent listening to this
world's advice and pursuing immorality, lusts,
drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and
repulsive service to false gods. 4 The unbeliev-
ers will be surprised that you chosen people
aren't joining them in that unrestrained, wild
living, and they'll mock you, 5 but they'll need
to give an account for their actions to the one
who's ready to judge both the living and the
dead. 6 That's why the good message was
preached even to the dead, so that while people
might judge them according to this world's
standards, yet they might live spiritually ac-
cording to **God's** judgement.

7 The end of everything is getting close, so
make good decisions and be serious in prayer,
8 and more than anything, display genuine love
to each other, because love triumphs over many
sins.[23] 9 Show hospitality to each other without
grumbling. 10 Whatever gift each person has re-
ceived, they should use it to serve the others as
good managers of the various forms of grace
God's given us. 11 **Anyone** who shares wisdom
that came from **God** or uses the strength that
God's given them to serve others needs to be
honouring **God** through **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk.
Yesus) the messiah**. He's the **one** who deserves
the honour and power throughout all time.

The suffering of believers

12 Dear friends, don't be surprised about the fiery
trials that you'll have to face as a test, as
though it's something unusual that's happen-
ing to you, 13 but rather, as you, friends, share
in the **messiah's** sufferings, stay positive so
that you'll be happy, just as you're glad to see
his honour revealed. 14 You, friends, will be
blessed if you're derided in the **messiah's**
name, because **God's** spirit rests on you—the
spirit that honours him. 15 None of you should
suffer persecution because you're a murderer
or a thief or a troublemaker or nosey-parker,
16 but if you suffer for being one of the mes-
siah's people, then there's no need to feel
ashamed, but instead praise **God** in that name.

17 It's time for the judgement to begin—and
to begin with **God's** people—and if we're judged
first, what will the outcome be for those who
refuse to believe in God's good message? 18 Yes,

'if it's difficult for godly people to be saved,
what will it be like for the ungodly and for
sinners?'[24]

19 So for everyone who's suffering according to
God's intentions, let them entrust their souls'
well-being to the faithful creator.

Advice to believers

5:1 Because of that, I'm encouraging your elders, as a fellow elder, and
a witness of the **messiah's** sufferings, and also
a partner in the GLORY that's going to be re-

22 **RV 3:20 · Cross-ref.** Gen 6:1–7:24.

23 **RV 4:8 · Cross-ref.** Prv 10:12.

24 **RV 4:18 · Cross-ref.** Prv 11:31 (LXX).

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vealed: 2 Carefully shepherd **God's** people that
you care for,[25] not out of compulsion, but will-
ingly, listening to **God**, not greedily, but enthu-
siastically, 3 not exercising dominance over
them, but being examples for them. 4 Then
when the chief shepherd returns, you elders
will receive the unfading crown of honour.

5 Similarly, you younger ones, take your el-
ders' advice, and all of you, show humility to
each other, because '**God** opposes those who
are proud, but displays grace to those who are
humble.'[26] 6 So humble yourselves under **God's**
mighty hand so that he might honour you at
the right time.[27] 7 Give all your concerns to him
because he cares about you all.

8 Stay alert and keep watch. Your opponent,
the devil, walks around like a roaring lion,
wanting to swallow up you chosen people, 9 but
you should remain firmly in the faith and resist
him, knowing that fellow believers all around
the world experiencing similar suffering are
doing the same. 10 Then **God**, the source of all
grace, and the **one** who called you to his eter-
nal GLORY in **the messiah**, will prepare you
chosen people as you suffer a little, and will
then strengthen you as you're established.
11 May his authority be powerful throughout all
time. May it be so.

Farewell

12 I've written this brief
letter with the help of the faithful brother, Silu-
anos,[28] to encourage you chosen people and to
testify that **God's** grace that you accepted is
true.

13 The chosen group in Bavel (Babylon) and
my 'son' Markos[29] send their greetings to you
chosen people. 14 Greet one another with a kiss
of love.

May all of you who are united with **the mes-
siah** experience God's peace.

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25 RV 5:2 · Cross-ref. Yhn 21:15-17.

26 RV 5:5 · Cross-ref. Prv 3:34 (LXX).

27 RV 5:6 · Cross-ref. Mat 23:12; Luk 14:11; 18:14.

28 RV 5:12 · Cross-ref. Acts 15:22,40.

29 RV 5:13 · Cross-ref. Acts 12:12,25; 13:13; 15:37-39; Col 4:10; Phm 24.