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*
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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,
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 rescued, **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 honoured,
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 rejected
ended up becoming the vital cornerstone.'[6]

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

2 **RV 1:19 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:5.

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.

Readers' Version

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—previously 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 behaviour.

13 Submit yourselves to every human authority, 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. Revere **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 consciences. 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 people. 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 insulted he didn't retaliate, when he was persecuted 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' behaviour 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 gentle and quiet spirit that's indestructible and which **God** considers precious. 5 That was how holy women in the past adorned themselves—those whose hope was in **God**, 6 like Sarah, who submitted to Avraham who you've become descendants of. She called him 'master',[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 blessing, 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 righteous,

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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.
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.

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 be-
cause of your godliness, 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, keeping 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 mis-
treat you chosen people, because of the good way you live
because of the message. 17 After all, it's better to do good,
and then, if **God** intends it, to suffer, than to do evil, 18 be-
cause **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**. Although 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 pa-
tiently 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 represents 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 physi-
cally, you chosen people should also
cultivate the same intention, because **anyone** who suffers
physically stops sinning 2 so that they can live their remain-
ing physical lives obeying **God's** intentions instead of this
world's lusts, 3 because enough time has been spent listening
to this world's advice and pursuing immorality, lusts, drunk-
enness, carousing, drinking parties, and repulsive service to
false gods. 4 The unbelievers will be surprised that you cho-
sen people aren't joining them in that unrestrained, wild liv-
ing, and they'll mock you, 5 but they'll need to give an ac-
count 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 according to **God's** judgement.
7 The end of everything is getting close, so make good deci-
sions 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 received, 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 hap-
pening 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, be-
cause **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 messiah'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 out-
come be for those who refuse to believe in God's good mes-
sage? 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** inten-
tions, 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
revealed: 2 Carefully shepherd **God's** people that you care
for,[25] not out of compulsion, but willingly, listening to **God**,
not greedily, but enthusiastically, 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 elders' advice, and
all of you, show humility to each other, because '**God** op-
poses those who are proud, but displays grace to those who

20 **RV 3:10-12 · Cross-ref.** Psa 34:12-16 (LXX).
21 **RV 3:14 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:10.
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).
25 **RV 5:2 · Cross-ref.** Yhn 21:15-17.

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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 eternal 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, Siluanos,[28] to encourage you
chosen people and to testify that **God's** grace that you ac-
cepted 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 messiah** experi-
ence God's peace.

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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.