

Shepherds of the Flock ~ Part 2

1 Kefa 5:8-13

In my last post, we began to explore the topic of **Shepherds of the Flock ~ Part 1** in **1 Kefa 5:1-7**. This post concludes our study of **1 Kefa** by looking at the **Conclusion and Final Greeting** in **1 Kefa 5:8-13**.

Conclusion

⁸ Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

The Adversary is **HaSatan**, who is real (Mat. 4:1ff) and should be resisted (see next verse and James 4:8). The **Believer** must transfer his anxieties to **God** and develop a constant watchfulness, particularly for the devices of his enemy **HaSatan**. In **Jewish** tradition, **HaSatan** accused **God's** people before **God's** throne day and night (except, in later accounts, on the Day of Atonement). ¹

Lions were viewed as the most ferocious and mighty beasts, and from Psalm 22:13, they came to be used as figures for enemies of **God's** people. In the time of **Nero**, **Believers** were fed to some literal lions as well. The small, isolated **Messianic** communities could take heart that their other spiritual siblings - starting with the communities **Kefa** knew in Rome were experiencing the same trials until the end, as we see in verse 9.

⁹ Stand against him, firm in your trust, knowing that your brothers throughout the world are going through the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ You will have to suffer only a little while; after that, God, who is full of grace, the one who called you to His eternal glory in union with the Messiah, will Himself restore, establish, and strengthen you and make you firm. ¹¹ To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Kefa warned **Believers** to be aware of **HaSatan's** deceitful practices and to **resist** him. Such behavior is fitting for temporary residents of this world.

God will **restore, strengthen, and establish you**. **Kefa** offers his audience a final word of comfort. He reminds them that **God** will empower and ultimately glorify those who remain steadfast in their faith under the weight of their present suffering.

Final Greetings

¹² Through Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written you briefly, encouraging you and giving my witness that this is God's true grace. Stand firm in it!

Silas (some translations use **Silvanus**, which is the full **Roman** name) served as a scribe. Most letters were written through the agency of scribes. As a **Roman** citizen (Acts 16:37), **Silas** presumably came from a reasonably well-to-do **Jewish** family that provided him an excellent literary and rhetorical education; **Kefa** may have given him some degree of freedom in wording the letter. ²

¹³ Your sister congregation in Bavel, chosen along with you, sends greetings to you, as does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet each other with a kiss of love. "Shalom aleikhem!" to all who belong to the Messiah. ~ 1 Kefa 5:1-12 (CJB)

¹ The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament.

² Ibid.

At one point, **Yochanan Mark** abandoned **Sha'ul** and **Bar-Nabba** (see Acts 13:5, 13), with the result that **Sha'ul** and **Bar-Nabba** split over whether to take him with them again, and **Sha'ul** took **Silas** instead.

Bavel was a common euphemism for **Rome** among **Jewish** writers seeking to avoid censorship and worse. **Shalom aleikhem** means "*Peace be upon you,*" a standard **Hebrew** greeting then and now. Kisses were a common affectionate greeting for close friends and relatives.

In my next post, we will begin to explore **Kefa's Second Letter**, which focuses on **Messianic Gentiles**.