

# The 10 RashiYomi Rules

*Their presence in Rashis on Noah*

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## GOALS

*The goal of the Weekly Rashi Digest is to use the weekly Torah portion to expose students at all levels to the ten major methods of Rashi's commentary. Continual weekly exposure to these ten major methods facilitate the acquisition, familiarity, and facility with the major exegetical methods.*

*We are currently in our 5 year, half-year cycle:*

*\* For period: Oct 2012 - May 2013 - we studied the Grammar rule*

*\* For period: June 2013 - Sep 2013 - we studied the Reference rule*

*\* For period: Oct 2013 - May 2013 - we will study the Parallelism rule*

*We are also devoting this series to home-schoolers. The Rashis will be presented in home-schooling format and can be used on any age group above 5. Nevertheless, the scholarly aspect of the Rashi will not be ignored: Citations and references are very popular in Rabbinic sermons and in Talmudic passages.*

*Here is a very simple example of parallelism: Gn49-11 states  
(Because of the plenty in Judah's reign) Clothes are washed in wine  
(Because of the plenty in Judah's reign) "Suth" [are washed] in blood-of-grapes*

*Rashi comment: Wine is parallel to blood-of-grapes, showing that blood-of-grapes means wine  
Similarly, Clothes are parallel to suth showing that suth means cloathing.*

*Thus the parallelism method explores repeated verse phrases and allows inferences based on the repeated passages.*

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## Reference - *Daily Rashi Sunday/Monday Oct 6/7, 2013*

Rashis covered: **Gn06-18b** and **Gn08-16a**

Commonality: Both the following verses discuss *who* came to the ark with Noah

Questions: After the reviewing the two verses discuss the following

- 1) What is the same in both verses
- 2) What is different in both verses
- 3) How would *you* explain the difference (Hint: You may have to look up the verses to ascertain their context)

After answering these questions, we will see how the great Rashi resolved them. Although Rashi's answer is deeper it is important for readers of Rashi to practice answering the Rashi questions by themselves in order to sharpen their textual focus thereby enriching the Rashi experience.

- **Gn06-18b** ...the ark, you, your sons, your wife, your son's wives
- **Gn08-16a** ...the ark, you, your wife, your son, your son's wives

Here are the answers to the questions.

- 1) Both verses mention 4 groups of people: You, sons, your wife, son's wives
- 2) The verses differ in the order of the people
- 3) The description of these differences are as follows:

Gn06-18b discussing entry to the ark groups by gender,

- men (You, sons) and
- women (your wife and son's wives).

Gn08-16a discussing exit from the ark groups by couples

- You and your wife
- Your sons and their wives

Rashi resolved this as follows:

- *During the stay in the ark couple relations were prohibited (it was improper to indulge in pleasure while God angrily destroyed the world)*
- *After exit from the ark normal couple relations were resumed (it was proper and encouraged to pursue rebuilding of the world)*

## Reference - *Daily Rashi Tuesday Oct 8, 2013*

Rashis covered: **Gn06-09** and **Gn07-01a**

Commonality: Both the following verses describe Noah's attributes.

Questions: After the reviewing the two verses discuss the following

- 1) What is the same in both verses
- 2) What is different in both verses
- 3) How would *you* explain the difference (Hint: You may have to look up the verses to ascertain their context)

After answering these questions, we will see how the great Rashi resolved them. Although Rashi's answer is deeper it is important for readers of Rashi to practice answering the Rashi questions by themselves in order to sharpen their textual focus thereby enriching the Rashi experience.

- **Gn06-09** ...Noah, was a perfect righteous man in his generation
- **Gn08-16a** ...Noah, a righteous person in his generation

Here are the answers to the questions.

- 1) Both verses mention the status of Noah in his generation
- 2) The verses differ in attributes describing Noah
- 3)

Gn06-09 generally discussing Noah lists 3 attributes

- perfect
- righteous
- man

Gn08-16a relating God's direct message to Noah lists only 1 attribute

- righteous

Rashi resolved this as follows (Note: Rashi's explanation is 'legal' but etiquette)

- *It is proper to fully describe a person and give appropriate praise*
- *But when speaking to the person directly you partially describe the person (it is improper to fully praise a person when speaking to him; it is etiquette to give partial praise).*

## Reference - *Daily Rashi Tuesday Oct 8, 2013*

Rashis covered: **Gn07-20a** and **Gn07-02b**

Commonality: Both the following verses discuss the number of animals in Noah's ark

Questions: After the reviewing the two verses discuss the following

- 1) What is the same in both verses
- 2) What is different in both verses
- 3) How would *you* explain the difference (Hint: You may have to look up the verses to ascertain their context)

After answering these questions, we will see how the great Rashi resolved them. Although Rashi's answer is deeper it is important for readers of Rashi to practice answering the Rashi questions by themselves in order to sharpen their textual focus thereby enriching the Rashi experience.

- **Gn07-02b** ...From pure animals, take 7 each
- **Gn07-02b** ...From impure animals, take 2 each

Here are the answers to the questions.

- 1) Both verses mention animals coming into Noah's ark
- 2) The verses differ in the number of animals coming
- 3)
  - Gn07-02 describing pure animals requires 7; contrastively
  - Gn08-16a describing impure animals requires 2.

Rashi resolved this as follows (Note: Rashi's explanation is in the form of a conjecture, something not explicitly stated in the text).

*Noah, as indicated in Gn07-20 offered to God pure animals. Rashi conjectures that Noah reasoned as follows: 'Why did God require 7 pure but only 2 impure; presumably only 2 are needed to continue the species; so the 5 pure animals are left over to offer offerings and thank God. I will therefore offer offerings.'*

## APPENDIX

THE 10 RASHI RULE CATEGORIES / THE 30 RASHI RULES

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**I-REFERENCE:** Dt26-05d *We went down to Egypt with a few people* explained by Gn46-27: with 70 people

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**II-MEANING / Lexicography / Dictionary: EXAMPLE (Connectives)** KI means

IF,PERHAPS,RATHER,BECAUSE,WHEN,THAT (Rashi on Gn18-15a Gn24-33a ) **EXAMPLE (Nuances):** YDA means FAMILIAR, not KNOW (eg Dt34-10a) eg Gn04-01 Adam was FAMILIAR with his wife **EXAMPLE (Idioms)** ON THE FACE OF means DURING THE LIFETIME (Rashi on Nu03-04a Gn11-28a Ex20-03c Dt05-07a) **EXAMPLE (Synonyms)** *Marchesheth* means pot; *Machavath* means frying pan (Lv02-05a, 07a) **EXAMPLE (Hononyms)** SHAMAH can mean listen, hear, understand: (Gn42-23a) *They didn't appreciate that Joseph understood them* (Note: They knew he was listening) **EXAMPLE (Metonymy)** (Lv02-11a) *Don't offer ...any honey as sacrifices* RASHI: honey includes any sweet fruit juice

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**III-GRAMMAR: EXAMPLE:** BA-ah means CAME;ba-AH means COMING(Gn46-26a)

**EXAMPLE:** Hitpael conjugation has different rules if 1st root letter is Tzade (Gn44-16a)

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**IV-PARALLELISM:** (Ex20-04) Dont **POSSESS** the gods of others Dont **MAKE** idols RASHI: So both **POSSESSion & MAKING** of idols are prohibited

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**V-CONTRADICTION:** (Nu04-03, Nu08-24a)Levites start Temple work at 25; Levites start temple work at 30. RASHI: They apprentice at 25 but start actual service at 30.

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**VI-STYLE: RABBI ISHMAEL RULES: EXAMPLE:** (Simple verses should be generalized): (Rashi Pesachim 6) (Dt25-04a) *Dont MUZZLE an OX while THRESHING* RASHI: Dont STOP any WORKING ANIMAL from eating

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**VII-FORMATTING: EXAMPLE (BOLD indicated by Repetition):** Ex12-09c) COOK COOK it in water (So COOKED-COOKED is understood the same way bold is understood by modern reader) RASHI: Preferred to COOK it in water; But COOK it at all costs(Even if you dont have water) **EXAMPLE: (BULLETS indicated by Repeating keywords)** (Ex03-11a) Who am I - **THAT** I should go to Pharaoh - **THAT** I should take the Jews out of Egypt RASHI: Repeated word **THAT** creates BULLET effect - Pharaoh was a difficult king (Bullet one) - Jews were not yet ready for freedom (Bullet two) **EXAMPLE (Climax assumed in any Biblical list):** (Dt19-11a) *If a man HATES, SPIES, CONFRONTS & KILLS.* RASHI: Bible identifies 4 stages to murder(indicated by capped words)

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**VIII-DATABASE: EXAMPLE:** *God spoke to Moses to say over* introduces about 7 dozen biblical commandments; *God spoke to Aaron to say over* only introduces 2 commandments. RASHI: (Lv10-03b) Aaron was silent when his sons died because they served in the Temple drunk; hence he merited that the commandment prohibiting priests to work in the Temple drunk, was given to him

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**IX-NON VERSE: EXAMPLE:** (Use of Algebra)(Ex38-26b) *Temple donations of silver were 100 Kikar and 1775 Shekel from 630,550 half-shekels* RASHI: So one Kikar of silver = 3000 Shekel.

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**X: SYMBOLISM: EXAMPLE:** (Use of puns) (NuXX-XX) Moses made a copper snake for people to look up to when bitten by snakes (so they should pray and recover) RASHI: (Nu21-09a) The Hebrew root for copper and snake are identical (Cf. The English *copperhead*) Moses made the metal snake copper colored to symbolize the

snake