

**The 10 RashiYomi Rules**  
*Their presence in Rashis in TeRuMaH*  
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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.*

*Hi*

*This issue continues our exploration of commandments in each parshah. Actually, we review today some attitudes that are so important that they are mentioned in Jewish Law books.*

*Russell Jay Hendel, President, Rashiyomi*

*As usual, when making transitions in the Rashi Newsletter we welcome positive and negative comments as well as requests. Please send all comments to [RashiYomi@GMail.Com](mailto:RashiYomi@GMail.Com).*

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## Database *Rashi NewsLetter* Ex25-11b, Ex25-24a, Ex30-03b Thur-Sat Feb 15-17, 2018

**Background:** The following Rashi illustrates the Rashi Database Method. The **Database** method roughly consists of asking for some attribute among a collection of verses.

Here

- The *collection of verses* are all verses describing Temple utensils
- The *attribute* is the presence of a *golden crown*.

The results of the Database query are presented in the table below. Rashi's comments are discussed afterwards.

### Biblical Text

Utensil	Paragraph	Verse Stating <i>Make on this utensil a golden crown around it</i>	Utensil is symbolic of
The Temple Torah Ark	Ex25-10:12	Ex25-10	Ark=Ark of Torah = learning =scholars
The Temple Table	Ex25-23:28	Ex25-24	Table = Physical necessities (Wealthy or powerful people)
The Temple Golden altar	Ex30-01:10	Ex30-03	Golden altar = Offerings = Priesthood

**Rashi Text:** The Rashi text is summarized in the above table. First, just to be clear, although there are many other Temple utensils, the *Ark, Table, and Golden Altar*, are the only utensils that had golden crowns.

Rashi points out that these three Temple utensils correspond to three professions

- Torah Ark = Torah Scholars
- Table = Wealthy and Powerful (royal) people
- Altar = Priesthood.

The Rambam in his Mishneh Torah (Laws of Talmud Torah) actually cites this Midrash and introduces a *Torah/Jewish attitude* that is part of Jewish law. *There are three crowns (positions of honor) attainable by Jews: Scholarship honor, Royal honor and Priestly honor. Although the Priestly and Royal honors exclusively belong to the priests and House of David, the Scholarship honor is available to anyone who wants it and is willing to place the effort.*

Thus, the Rambam codifies this Midrash as giving a *promise* of encouragement and success to anyone who wishes to be honored as a Torah scholar. This important motivational promise is to prevent aspiring scholars from giving up.

The interplay here between Law, Psychology and Midrash is very interesting and revealing.

**Database-Grammar *Rashi NewsLetter* Ex25-05c  
Ex26-15a Sun-Mon Feb 18,19, 2018**

**Background:** The following Rashi illustrates the Rashi **Database Method**. The Database method roughly consists of asking for some attribute among a collection of verses.

Here

- The *collection of verses* are all verses describing *from what* Temple utensils are made

- The *attribute* is the presence of *the* vs. *a*

All Temple utensils are described as being made from *a* certain wood or garment, while contrastively, the Temple building is described as being made from *the* boards.

Interestingly, Rashi is not content with the **Database** query and grammar. Rashi also brings in historical evidence. This is a very important Rashi principle: *People sometimes see a Rashi as weak because only certain arguments are presented; if you look carefully you can find many more arguments thus making the Rashi claim stronger.*

**Biblical Text:** There are two verses

- *Make the boards for the Temple building, make them of acacia wood.*

- *These are the items needed for making the Temple...and acacia wood*

**Rashi Text:** Rashi makes two points.

- The word *the* in *the boards* points to something known
- Rashi supplements the point he is about to make with a beautiful historical argument. *They were commanded to use acacia wood to make the Temple. But how would they have acacia wood in the desert. Trees (except for cactus) do not really grow in the desert.*

Rashi uses the coupled **Database, Grammatical** and Historical approach to justify the following hypothesis: *Undoubtedly Jacob who knew the Jews were going into Egypt also knew they would be redeemed. He felt it important that the Jews implement their redemption with a Temple and so he planted trees in Egypt and asked the Jews to take the trees into the desert when they were freed.*

I would add to Rashi: *Why was a Temple so important for freedom. Because the Temple has animal offerings. The combinations of animals and altar fire resemble the Fire Visions of Ezekiel, which is the beginning of Prophecy. Our sages in fact teach us that even maids at Sinai saw visions comparable to Ezekiel's (chapter 1) Fire Visions. The Fire Visions are the beginning of adulthood in that they resemble the beginning of a unique personal relationship between Man and God.*

Although this is not directly brought into Jewish law the

concept that a person in bad straits should prepare items for redemption - the same way Jacob prepared acacia trees for the Exodus - is an important concept in *faith*. To receive God's help we must sometimes make the first jump of faith and that jump of faith can be a simple preparation for our freedom.

## 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 don't 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) 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