The Rashi Database Project

GOALS*: * Show that all Rashid comments are spontaneous, instant, effortless reactions of a native speaker to the biblical text.*
*This is accomplished by skillful English translations instantly suggesting the Rashid comment to the reader
* Additionally, each Rashid comment is examined using the 10 organs of the Rashid anatomy.
PUBLICATION*: www.Rashibyomi.com/RashiDatabase.htm*
(MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY)*: DT = Doctoral Thesis (www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook.htm,*
MG=Modern Grammar with Applications to Rashid (www.Rashiyom.com/Rashibook2.htm)}
OTHER COMMENTATORS (ABBREVIATIONS): R=Ramban, T=Baal Turim, K=Kli Yakar, I=Ibn Ezra, H=Hendel
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DATE/AUTHOR*: Sep 3rd, 2023, Russell Jay Hendel DSJS, Ph.D.*

RASHI ID: Dt11-26, Dt11-27, Dt11-29, Dt12-02, Dt12-05a, Dt12-09b, Dt12-09c

PESHAT, SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

RASHI METHODS: We have spent a year on Rashi comments on *meaning*. We will now deal with all Rashi comments and a variety of methods.

NOTE TO ALL READERS: This is your email list. If you want to see specific types of Rashi comments please drop me a line at Rashiyomi@GMail.Com.

VERSE:	Dt11-26
TRANSLATION:	*Take note: I [Moses] present to you today the* blessing *and* curse
METHOD:	`Grammar->Paragraph`
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	Based on the rest of the paragraph (v29) Rashi identifies `curse` and `blessing` not as general terms but as referring to the ritual of pronouncing the `blessings` and `curses` on Mount Gerizim and Mount Eyval

VERSE:	Dt11-27
TRANSLATION:	*Take note: I [Moses] present to you today the blessing and curse. The* `blessing:` *If you listen to the commandments..; The* `curse:` *If you don't listen to the commandments...*
METHOD:	`Grammar->Paragraph`
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	One possible paragraph format is a topic sentence listing items followed by a discussion of each item. In this case the punctuation of colon is used to highlight the paragraph structure. So we would write this paragraph as follows;

    Take note that I present to you today (1) the `blessing` and (2) the `curse`
    (1) The `blessing:` If you listen to the commandments....
    (2) The `curse:` If you don't listen to the commandments

This formatting of paragraphs occurs frequently in English and enhances the biblical reading experience

VERSE:	Dt11-29
TRANSLATION:	*[The* blessers*] will give the blessing on Mount Gerizim*
METHOD:	Ellipsis
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	The verse literally says "Give the blessing on Mount Gerizim" without specifying who gives the blessings. Rashi following the Aramaic translation explains "The blessers will give the blessings on Mount Gerizim." A very important part of biblical commentary is filling in ellipsis.

VERSE:	Dt12-02
TRANSLATION:	*Totally destroy all the places where the nation serviced (their gods); (a) on* high mountains *and (b)* hills *and (c) underneath all* flowering trees
METHOD:	Grammar->Paragraph
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	One principle of paragraphs is development of a theme with examples. A good paragraph writer will take extreme examples that one might think are excluded. The verse asks to destroy the places with the nations worshipped their gods and then gives three examples: (a) high mountains, (b) hills, and (c) flowering trees. The point of the example is that if idols are placed under a flowering tree you can destroy both the idol and the tree; contrastively if the idols are placed on a high mountain or even a hill, it would be difficult to raise the mountain or hill to the ground. Rashi explains that for idols on high mountains and hills it suffices to destroy the idols and their housing while for flowering trees one totally destroys the idols and the tree (so is my understanding of destroying the tree)

VERSE:	Dt12-05a, Dt12-09b, Dt12-09c
TRANSLATION:	*Rather: Seeks God's presence and come to the place* that God picks *from all your tribes to place his name there.....You have not yet come to the* rest *and* inheritance *which God gives you*
METHOD:	Illuminating Example

BRIEF EXPLANATION:	One way of interpreting Rashi is literally and restrictively: the place `that God picks` means Shiloh; the `resting place` mean Nov, the `inheritance` means Jerusalem. Furthermore Rashi appears to say that `resting place` specifically means Nov; `inheritance` specifically means Jerusalem. This is the literal approach in which Rashi appears to exhaust the meaning with the examples he selects. My approach is to interpret the biblical phrases as they are, broadly `wherever` God chooses to place his name `for example` Shiloh, Nov, Jerusalem. The language of the biblical text does not specifically mean a particular place; it is general. Rashi simply points out that Jerusalem was not the only place chose by God as there were 4 places where the Ark lived (only 3 are mentioned here).Such an approach to translation is more satisfying and does not contradict Rashi but avoids the type of pickiness that some Rashi commentators engage in.

VERSE:	Dt12-09b
TRANSLATION:	
METHOD:	
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	See Dt12-05a

VERSE:	Dt12-09c
TRANSLATION:	
METHOD:	
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	See Dt12-05a