

# 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.Rashiyomi.com/RashiDatabase.htm](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/RashiDatabase.htm)

(MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY): DT = Doctoral Thesis ([www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook.htm](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook.htm),

MG=Modern Grammar with Applications to Rashid ([www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook2.htm](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook2.htm) ))

OTHER COMMENTATORS (ABBREVIATIONS): R=Ramban, T=Baal Turim, K=Kli Yakar, I=Ibn Ezra, H=Hendel

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**RASHI ID: Ex35-11a, Ex35-11b, Ex35-11c, Ex35-12a, Ex35-13a, Ex35-14a, Ex35-14b, Ex35-14c, Ex35-15a, Ex35-17a, Ex35-17b, Ex35-18a, Ex35-18b, Ex35-19a, Ex31-10a**

**PESHAT: SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

**WHAT IS NEW:** Today we skip the request from readers to bring Rashi-Ramban controversies. Instead, we show a Rashi meta-rule. In this week's Rashi digest, Rashi derives commentary by matching the list of 41 items in Ex35 with the corresponding items in Ex25, Ex26, Ex27.

**NEW FORMAT:** Starting today we will no longer be using the spreadsheet to include long narratives. Rather we link the spreadsheet to a word document with the narrative. **LET ME KNOW HOW YOU THE READER LIKE THIS** (Simply hit **REPLY** to the email and write in the **SUBJECT LINE** either **LIKE, PREFER OLD WAY, INDIFFERENT**). There will be many more formatting innovations in the coming months and we look forward to readers for feedback.

## TODAYS CHALLENGING RASHIS

**Ex35-11:20 (Ex35-11a,b,c; Ex35-12a, Ex35-13a, Ex35-14a,b,c; Ex35-15a; Ex35-17a,b; Ex35-18a,b; Ex35-19a, Ex31-10a)** 11. The tabernacle, its tent, and its covering, its clasps, and its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets,  
12. The ark, and its poles, with the covering, and the veil of the screen,  
13. The table, and its poles, and all its utensils, and the bread of display.  
14. The candelabra for the light, and its utensils and its lamps, and the light-oil  
15. And the incense altar, and its poles, and the anointing oil, and the incense of spices, and the screen entrance for the entrance of the tabernacle,  
16. The altar of burnt offering, with its bronze grating, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its pedestal,  
17. The hangings of the court, its pillars, and their sockets, and the screen for the door of the court,  
18. The pegs of the tabernacle, and the pegs of the court, and their ords,  
19. The uniforms, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.  
20. And all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

**Rashi Rule:** Reference - Matching

**Ex35-11:20 (Ex35-11a,b,c; Ex35-12a, Ex35-13a, Ex35-14a,b,c; Ex35-15a; Ex35-17a,b; Ex35-18a,b; Ex35-19a, Ex31-10a)** 11. The tabernacle, its tent, and its covering, its clasps, and its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets,  
12. The ark, and its poles, with the covering, and the veil of the screen,  
13. The table, and its poles, and all its utensils, and the bread of display.  
14. The candelabra for the light, and its utensils and its lamps, and the light-oil  
15. And the incense altar, and its poles, and the anointing oil, and the incense of spices, and the screen entrance for the entrance of the tabernacle,  
16. The altar of burnt offering, with its bronze grating, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its pedestal,  
17. The hangings of the court, its pillars, and their sockets, and the screen for the door of the court,  
18. The pegs of the tabernacle, and the pegs of the court, and their cords,  
19. The uniforms, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.  
20. And all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

**Rashi Rule:** Reference - Matching

**Rashi Comment:** The biblical text sometimes references itself. For example,

Lv04-24 ...*he slaughters it in the place that the elevation offering is slaughtered,*

indicating that the king's sin offering is slaughtered in the place, previously indicated in another biblical chapter, where the elevation offering is slaughtered.

In the above example one verse references one other verse. However, in Ex35-11:20, ten verses with over a dozen words reference previously mentioned items in former chapters. Thus, we may speak about this as a *matching reference* rather than just a reference since the main challenge is to identify what *each* mentioned item corresponds to.

There are 41 items mentioned in Ex35-11:20. Rashi only matches 13 of them (and explains a grammatical oddity on a 14th). In each of these 13 there was some possible confusion which required a clarification by Rashi. The 13 items are presented in the tables below along with the possible sources of confusion or the need for clarification.

Item in Ex35	Verse	Reference	Verse	Need for clarification
Tabernacl e	Ex35-11a	Tabernacle	Ex26-01	Just as <i>day</i> can refer either to the 12 hour period or the entire day, so too, <i>tabernacle</i> can refer to the entire tabernacle or one part of it.
Its tent	Ex35-11b	Tent	Ex26-07	See entry <i>Tabernacle</i>
tent cover	Ex35-11c	tent cover	Ex26-14	See entry <i>Tabernacle</i>

The next table shows a variety of needs for clarification.

Item in Ex35	Verse	Reference	Verse	Need for clarification
border-screen	Ex35-12a	screen...th at divides	Ex26-31:33	Exactly the same word is not used. So Rashi clarifies that the Hebrew <i>MaSaCh</i> means <i>border</i> and that all <i>borders</i> have a function to <i>divide</i> a space into two
face's bread	Ex35-13a	face's bread	Ex25-30	Exactly the same phrase is used. However, it is peculiar to call <i>bread</i> the <i>face's bread</i> . Rashi cross references his own commentaries at Ex25-29a, Ex25-30a.
its utensils	Ex35-14a	its tongs and trays	Ex25-38	<i>Utensils</i> is a <u>general</u> category (hypernym) while <i>tongs</i> and <i>trays</i> are <u>particular examples</u> of the general category (hyponym)
its lamps	Ex35-14b	its lamp	Ex25-37	Just as <i>day</i> can refer to the 12 hour lit period or to the entire day, so too, <i>lamp</i> can refer to the entire candelabra or just the part of it that holds the wicks which burn
the light oil	Ex35-14c	clear, beaten, olive oil for light	Ex27-20	<i>Light-oil</i> is an idiom that only occurs 3 times in Tabernacle construction. This idiom refers to the more detailed phrases <i>clear, beaten, olive oil for light</i> . Hence Rashi must clarify the connection

The next table shows two screens which are both entrances. It is easy to confuse them and hence the clarifying comments of Rashi

Item in Ex35	Verse	Reference	Verse	Need for clarification
the screen entrance for the tabernacle entrance	Ex35-15a	a screen for the tent entrance	Ex26-36:37	Notice the three terms to which <i>entrance</i> is applied: <i>tabernacle entrance, tent entrance, gate entrance</i> . Also note the reversal in Ex35-16 ( <i>screen for courtyard gate vs. for the courtyard gate a screen</i> ). Rashi therefore clarifies. He also adds additional remarks such as the courtyard construction and the fact the tent entrance had no supporting beams or tent-hides over it.
the screen for the gate of the courtyard	Ex35-17b	For the gate of the courtyard a screen	Ex27-16	See previous row.

There are 3 other comments in these Rashis as follows.

**Ex35-17a** *The hangings of the court, its pillars, and its sockets,*

**Rashi Rule:** Grammar - Gender Agreement

**Rashi Comment:** The word *its* is a referential pronoun referring back to *court*. In Hebrew, unlike English, pronouns have gender. The gender of *its pillars* is masculine while the gender of *its sockets* is feminine. Rashi points out that several Hebrew words are bi-gender and it is not unusual and without exegetical significance.

**Ex35-18a,b** *The pegs of the Tabernacle and its cords*

**Rashi Rule:** Reference - matching

**Rashi Comment:** Although *pegs* are mentioned in Ex26-19, *cords* are not mentioned. In other words, there is an *unmatched* item between Ex35 and Ex25,26,27. Rashi explains that the function of the *pegs* and *cords* are to tighten the hide coverings so that they don't move or vibrate in the wind.

I would argue that all Tabernacle items have symbolic significance. However, the cords have no symbolic significance and hence they are not mentioned in the commands to build the Tabernacle since they merely serve a function of tightening connections without significance.

**Number of Rashi comments:** I would argue that there is one Rashi comment here. Rashi simply contrasts the functions of the pegs and cords; the pegs are attached to the ground for firmness and the cords connects the pegs with the various temple items to secure them.

I believe that the reason we have two Rashi comments instead of one in our current texts is because the copy editors would bold any word in Rashi which matched the text. In this case the words *peg* and *cords* both match the text so the copyist listed two comments. But Rashi is not commenting on both words. He is only commenting on *cords* by indicating their function. Since the *cords* work with the *pegs* Rashi contrasts them; but he didn't intend to make two comments.

**Ex35-19a, Ex31-10a** *The SeRaD garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,*

**Rashi Rule:** Word Meaning

**Rashi Comment:** The biblical phrase *SeRad garments* in Ex35-19a matches the identical phrase in Ex31-10. However, the root *S-R-D* (*Sin Resh Daleth*) does not occur elsewhere in the Bible. Additionally, it is not clear what the *SeRaD garments* refers to. In fact, *SeRaD garments* might refer to garments worn by priests the topic of discussion in Ex27. Rashi ingeniously compares

- The composition of the *SeRaD garments*
- The composition of the *priestly garments*

and shows they are distinct. But the issue remains as to what they refer to.

Rashi suggests that the *SeRaD garments* refer to the *garment wraps* used when disassembling the Tabernacle (during the various journeys). Rashi attempts to derive this from comparable Aramaic words. My own suggestion, not found in Rashi, is *SeRaD* means *She - RaiD*, garments used when *taking down* (*RaiD*) the Tabernacle on each journey.

## DATABASE ENTRIES

*The Free Downloadable Excel based database is found at*  
[http://www.Rashiyomi.com/The\\_Rashi\\_Database\\_Project.xls](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/The_Rashi_Database_Project.xls)

**VERSE:** Ex35-11a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF** [Ex35-12a](#)  
**EXPLANATION:**

**VERSE:** Ex35-11b  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF** [Ex35-12a](#)  
**EXPLANATION:**

**VERSE:** Ex35-11c  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-12a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-13a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-14a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-14b  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-14c  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-15a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*

**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-17a  
**TRANSLATION:** *The courtyard, its pillars and its supports*  
**METHOD:** Grammar - Gender agreement  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-17b  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-18a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-18b  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex35-19a  
**TRANSLATION:** *List of 41 items*  
**METHOD:** Reference - Matching  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)

**VERSE:** Ex31-10a  
**TRANSLATION:** *The SeRaD garments*  
**METHOD:** Word Meaning  
**BRIEF**  
**EXPLANATION:** [Ex35-12a](#)