

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.

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(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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PESHAT, SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

RASHI vs. MIDRASH: We will continue with the *routine* Rashid comments begun recently. Although there are already encyclopedic works documenting Rashi's rich approach to dictionary meaning such as Avineri's *Rashi's Palace*, my emphasis will be on the half dozen principles and figures of speech used to explain meaning. Additionally, as done in my doctoral thesis, I will emphasize that *peshat* the straightforward meaning of the text coincides with what reading literacy examinations test.

The techniques covered in this *routine Rashid* series are: *Metonymy, hypernymy, synecdoche, meronymy, root meaning, grammar, parallelism, the paragraph, and reading literacy*. By repeatedly emphasizing these principles and reinforcing them with English examples it is hoped that the reader will acquire a natural skill for these approaches thereby leading to greater Rashid appreciation.

The table with this week's examples begin on the next page.

Verse	Translation of Verse with Rashi	Rule	Brief Explanation of Rule
Ex38-21c	<p>This is the accounting of The Dwelling (Desert Temple), The Witness Dwelling,</p>	Synecdoche	<p>Just as Honey is a good example of something sweet, so too the Desert Temple is a good example of The Dwelling of God. Hence synecdoche, which means and refers to a good example, names sweet things as honey and names the Desert Temple as The Dwelling. This verse calls The Dwelling, the Witness Dwelling To understand this we need the Rashi on Ex40-20a where Rashi citing Ex31-Ex34 (e.g. Ex31-18) identifies the 10 commandments as what the Bible calls "The witness tablets" "the witness stones". In a similar manner the Ark which housed the 10 commandments is called the Witness Ark. Rashi, here, explains what was being witnessed: The Temple, Ark, and Tablets, are witness and proof that God endowed the Jewish People with prophecy. Moreover, since the 1st tablets were destroyed, and God then gave a 2nd set of tablets, they are witness to God endowing the Jewish people with prophecy despite their sins.</p>
Ex38-24a	<p>KiKKaR (A weight = 120 Maneh Weights)</p>	External Sciences	<p>There are 4 names of weights which we abbreviate with their initials: The KiKKaR, K, the MaNeH, M, the SheKeL = S, and the BeKaH = Half MaNeH =H. Here are the relationships $1 S = 2 H$ (1 Shekel = 2 halves); $1 M = 25 S$; $1 K = 100 M$. Now for the math. The Bible relates that there were 603550 H; since $2 H = 1 M$, $603550 H = 301,775 S$ ($301,775 = 603,550/2$). Curiously, this Rashi is best understood using the principles of College Remedial Algebra. We have $301775 S = 100 K + 1775 S$. Algebra says we can subtract the same quantity from both sides. Hence subtracting 1775 S from both sides we obtain $300,000 S = 100K$. Algebra says we can divide both sides of an equation by the same amount. Hence dividing both sides by 100, we obtain $1 K = 3000 S$.</p>

Ex38-26a	A split [half dollar] for each head [person] A split for each head	Synecdoche	Synecdoche refers to naming something by a good example of it. So sweet things are called honey because honey is a good example of sweetness. Similarly, the half dollar is called the split, because splitting a stone dollar into 2 is a good example and typical method of creating half dollars
Ex39-03a	They sky-ed the trapped gold and cut it into threads to weave in the midst of the azure, in the midst of the purple, in the midst of dyed wool, and in the midst of the linen	Denominative	Denominative refers to naming a verb (activity) by a noun (object) associated with it. So, to hospitalize is the activity associated with the noun hospital. This is called a locative denominative since it names the activity, to hospitalize, based on the location, the hospital. Gutfurcht in her doctoral thesis identified 8 types or paradigms of denominatives. In this verse, from the noun sky we obtain the verb to sky which means to flatten out like the sky. This is an example of a simulative denominative where the activity simulates or attempts to resemble something. For example, to guard is an activity resembling the activity of the noun guard. Rashi continues: The Bible explains how they made the gold threads. They sky-ed (flattened out) the gold pieces in thin wafers and the cut them into threads which were woven with the azure, purple, wool, and linen threads
Ex40-03a	Place there the Witness Ark and fence the Paroceth Curtain on the Ark	Hypernymy	Ex26-33 explains that the Paroceth curtain "Divides between the Ark (Holy of holies) and the Temple ante-chambers (Holies)." In this verse however the bible uses the word SaKoTha which refers to a protective covering. Rashi simply says a nuance of protection. Protection and separation are two co-hyponyms (synonyms) of the general category (hypernym) of coverings. I have used the stronger word fence which also has connotations of protection. From the root of SaKoTha we obtain SeChaCh the protective covering of the Sukkah. Its real meaning is one of close covering which affords some shelter from the external elements

<p>Ex40-20a</p>	<p>And he [Moses] took and placed the Witness Stones [the 10 commandments on the two tablets of stone] [lit. The Witness] in the Ark</p>	<p>Synecdoche</p>	<p>See Rashi on Ex38-21c. Rashi undoubtedly used the technique of other verses. There are about a dozen verses where the Ark or the 10 commandments are called The Witness: The Witness Ark or The Witness Tablets (See especially Ex31-18 where the Bible identifies the 10 commandments as the Witness Tablets). This uses the technique of Synecdoche (Good example) since the 10 commandments are a good example of being a witness. Rashi explains what they are a witness to. They are a witness to God endowing the Jewish people with prophecy. Moreover, since the 1st tablets were destroyed (because of the sin of the golden calf) and then a 2nd set of tablets were given to us, the Tablets are a witness to God endowing the Jewish people with prophecy even if they sin.</p>
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