

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

(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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RASHI ID: Lv25-10d, Lv25-16a:b, Lv25-14b:17a, Lv25-23b, Lv25-27a

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.

VERSE:	Lv25-10d
TRANSLATION:	<i>[The Fiftieth year] It will be a Jubilee [year]; every person will return to his land</i>
METHOD:	Grammar - Metonymy
BRIEF EXPLANATION:	The verse says that every person will return to his land but as Rashi explains it means every land will return to its owner. This is similar to the use of language which says the sun rises in the east, sets in the west, and travels through the sky when in fact the sun is still and it is the earth that it is rotating. Some say that ancient man actually believed that the sun rose; but it is not necessary to offer this explanation as language will name things but by associated things (This is called <i>metonymy</i>). In this verse, people usually live near their land when they own it; if the land returns to them they may actually move nearer to it to work on it; hence the language every person will return to this land vs. every land will return to its owner.

VERSE:	Lv25-16a,b
TRANSLATION:	<i>According to the multitude of years increase your transaction and according to the smallness of years decrease your transaction</i>
METHOD:	Metonymy

BRIEF EXPLANATION: Increase and decrease a transaction means increase and decrease the money spent on the transaction. Language may interchange parts of speech in describing things; this is called *Metonymy*. A good example is saying Israel is winning the war when the intent is that the Israelis, the people living in Israel, are winning the war.

VERSE: Lv25-14b,17a
TRANSLATION: *Do not abuse your brother/colleague*

METHOD: Etymology

BRIEF EXPLANATION: The Biblical root Yud-Nun-Hey means to abuse. From this root we get the word YaYiN, wine, the drink, that abused people consume. Rashi does not give the etymology but I would suggest the focus on Nun, which means grandchild, so that Yud-Nun-Hey means to treat an adult like a child. (The other two root letters are weak letters and frequently are dropped in conjugations). Rashi interprets verses 14 and 17 to refer to monetary and personal abuse respectively. He learns this from context: The content of verses 14-16 is sales so that abuse is monetary abuse. Verse 17 speaks reminds the reader to fear God an expression used when the violation depends on ones intent which only God knows; hence Rashi interprets this verse as personal abuse since a person can always claim that he wasn't trying to abuse but rather to help his brother/colleague.

VERSE: Lv25-23b

TRANSLATION: *Land shall not be sold permanently*

METHOD: Etymology

BRIEF EXPLANATION: Rashi explains the biblical root Tzade-Mem-Tauv as meaning cut, fixed, permanently. The Tzade-Mem of the root (the Tauv is a weak letter) occurs in words meaning fasting and thirst and hence denotes limitation and constriction. So Tzade-Mem-Tauv would refer to total limitation, that is, permanently

VERSE: Lv25-27a
TRANSLATION: *He shall give thought to the years of his sale*

METHOD: Metonymy

BRIEF EXPLANATION: The phrase thought to the years of sale is terse phrase whose meaning is not immediately clear. Rashi gives the details of this thought process. Rashi equates the value of the land with the number of annual produces the buyer will obtain (since in the Jubilee the land returns to the owner). This method of valuation is known as the Dividend Discount Model. Language abbreviates this as thought to the years of the sale (till the Jubilee). This method of using abbreviated language is called Metonymy.