

The 10 RashiYomi Rules
Their presence in Rashis For Shavuoth
Vol 27#14 - Adapted from **Rashi-is-Simple**

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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.

A Happy, Joyous and Sweet Shavuoth to all members of the Rashiyomi family. I attach below a review of the differences between the 2 versions of the 10 commandments in the Torah. This makes excellent Torah for Shavuoth.

*Warmly
Dr Russell Jay Hendel;
President Rashiyomi*

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The two decalogues can be found in Ex20 and Dt05. There are 20 differences between the two decalogues. Extra words in one version are capped. Note: I have indicated full and deficient Hebrew spellings with corresponding queer English spellings. For example the Hebrew word *parents* is spelled Aleph-Beth-(Vav)-Tav. If the word have an extra vav we would spell the English *Pareents*. Rashi references are listed in the last column.

We explain two examples from the table and encourage readers in their holiday study sessions to treat the other examples similarly.

Example Difference Number 15 (#15 in table below): If we compare the 5th commandment in the Exodus and Deuteronomy Decalogue we find the following difference:

- (Exodus) Honor your parents *for long life*
- (Deut) Honor your parents *for long life for your good*

Do you notice the extra phrase *for your good* in the Deuteronomy version? This gives emphasis. After all, one can live long without having a good life. The Torah therefore clarifies that honoring one's parents gives both a long and good life. In another essay I have noted that many words connoting quantity also connote quality: A *big* person can be physically big or *spiritually big* e.g. a leader; similarly a *long* life can be physically long or spiritually good.

Example Difference Number 14 (#14 in table below): If we compare the spelling of *in order you have a long life* in the 5th commandment in Exodus and Deuteronomy we see that one is spelled fully with extra vowels. The analogy in English would be as follows

- *Honor your parents in order you have a long life*
- *Honor your parents in order you havee a loong liife*

The two spellings nuance two possibilities of reward: *long life* and *loong liife* with the fuller spellings indicating *extraness* in the long life. Remarkably, there is no Rashi or Midrash on this. However, I have emphasized the need to apply Rashi rules to parts of text not directly commented on by Rashi. I think it simple to see the nuances of these spellings:

- If your honor of parents is *full* and *complete* your longevity reward will be *full* and *complete*
- If you honor of parents is just *so and so* then your longevity will be just *so so*.

Thus we treat the extra spellings as Author-intended puns. For a full treatment of puns including the position of secular literature that puns are perceived by even some secular scholars as grammatical see my article, *Biblical Puns*, accessible at <http://www.Rashiyomi.com/puns.pdf>

| Difference Number | Ex VERSE | Ex Text (With Differences CAPPED) | Dt VERSE | Dt Text (With Differences CAPPED) | Brief Explanation | Principle Used |
|-------------------|----------|--|----------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Ex20-03 | Don't make an idol: Any image in heaven | Dt05-08 | Don't make an idol OR any image in heaven | Emphasis that worshipping images of angel visions are idolatrous cf Ex20-20-- supports Rambam and Rashi | Lack of OR equates the items |
| 2 | Ex20-05 | Visits the sins of PARENTS on children | Dt05-08 | Visits the sins of PAREENTS on children | Children morally responsible whether their upbringing is FULL or DEFECTIVE | PUN on FULL/DEFECTIVE spelling |

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| 3 | Ex20-05 | Visits the sins of parents on children: on 3rd and 4th generations | Dt05-09 | Visits the sins of parents on children AND on 3rd and 4th generations | Sins of parents visited only when grandchildren like children (Follow in parents footsteps) | Lack of AND equates the items (Ex20-05b) |
| 4 | Ex20-07 | God gives grace to thousands of generations to those who love me and observe MY commandments | Dt05-10 | God gives grace to thousands of generations to those who love me and observe MY / HIS commandments | LOVE must be DIRECTLY with God (No intermediary); but OBSERVANCE may be thru the intermediary of the Rabbi | Alignment shows there are two cases |
| 5 | Ex20-08 | Commemorate the Sabbath | Dt05-12 | Guard the Sabbath | Famous Midrash: Two Requirements: Think of Sabbath during week (COMMEMORATE) and institute safeguards (Rabbinic enactments) to Guard Sabbath | Alignment shows 2 requirements (Rashi Ex20-08a) |
| 6 | Ex20-08 | blank | Dt05-12 | ...(Observe..) the Sabbath AS GOD COMMANDED YOU | The phrase AS GOD COMMANDED YOU links the decalogue to the rest of the Bible: The DECALOGUE is a GENERAL requirement whose DETAILS are spelled out throughout Bible(Idea: Decalogue summarizes all commandments) | AS GOD COMMANDED YOU implies cross reference and linkage (Dt05-12b) |
| 7 | Ex20-10 | Observe Sabbath...you and your children; your slaves and animals | Dt05-14 | Observe Sabbath...you and your children AND you slaves and animals | Some types of Sabbath observance UNIFORM (and and) while some types of observance is DISTINCT for each party. eg. NO ONE can do work for you (UNIFORM). However only CHILDREN must be trained in Sabbath observa | Lack of AND IN LIST shows 2 cases in list items |
| 8 | Ex20-10 | Observe Sabbath...and your ANIMALS | Dt05-14 | Observe Sabbath...and your OXEN AND DONKEYS and all your animals | Prohibitions of LABOR (eg ploughing) and TRANSPORTATION (ox and donkeys) | ALIGNMENT alerts us to various details and subcases |
| 9 | Ex20-10 | Observe Sabbath ...and your ANIMALS | Dt05-14 | Observe Sabbath...and ALL your animals | Sabbath prohibitions BOTH on animals that traditionally help man (Like oxen) and on animals that traditionally dont do work | ALL emphasizes no exceptions |
| 10 | Ex20-11 | Observe Sabbath...BECAUSE | Dt05-15 | Observe Sabbath...AND COMMEMORATE | The reason for Sabbath observance is PURELY Symbolic---an affirmation of Gods | ALIGNMENT equates the two items |

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| | | | | | sovereignty (cf Ex31-13) | |
| 11 | Ex20-11 | Observe Sabbath..because God CREATED THE WORLD | Dt05-15 | Observe the Sabbath..COMMEMORATE THE EXODUS | Two reasons for Sabbath observance: Symbolically affirms that God created the world and symbolically affirms the God freed us from work/Slavery | ALIGNMENT emphasizes TWO aspects to cases |
| 12 | Ex20-11 | ..therefore God BLESSED the Sabbath and SANCTIFIED it | Dt05-15 | ...therefore God COMMANDED you to OBSERVE the Sabbath | Sabbath is BURDEN and BLESSING: BURDEN: Observe Sabbath and treat Slaves nicely; BLESSING: God created world; therefore you can afford one day off | ALIGNMENT emphasizes TWO aspects to cases |
| 13 | Ex20-12 | Honor your parents | Dt05-16 | Honor your parents AS GOD COMMENDED YOU | The phrase AS GOD COMMANDED YOU links the decalogue to the rest of the Bible: The DECALOGUE is a GENERAL requirement whose DETAILS are spelled out throughout Bible(Idea: Decalogue summarizes all commandments) | AS GOD COMMANDED YOU implies cross reference and linkage (Dt05-16b) |
| 14 | Ex20-12 | Honor parents in order you HAVE a long life | Dt05-16 | Honor parents in order you HAVEE a long life | If your honor is FULL-HEARTED then your long life will be FULL; if your honor is HALF-HEARTED then your long life will be DEFECTIVE | |
| 15 | Ex20-12 | Honor parents in order you have a long life | Dt05-16 | Honor parents in order you have a long life AND IT BE WELL WITH YOU | Confirms view of Radak that LONG LIFE refers not to NUMBER OF DAYS but QUALITY of life | ALIGNMENT equates the two items |
| 16 | Ex20-13 | Dont murder; ...Dont steal | Dt20-17 | Dont murder AND ...Dont Steal | All laws in the verse are SIMILAR.....context of capital crimes (eg STEAL=KIDNAPPING) (Rabbi Ishmael) | AND creates a UNIFORM context (Supports Rashi on Ex20-13b) |
| 17 | Ex20-13 | Dont testify as a FALSE WITNESS | Dt20-17 | Dont testify as an IRRELEVANT WITNESS | Don't testify falsely: YOU STOLE; Dont stand SILENTLY (IRRELEVANTLY) by someone who so claims (to increase witness weight and scare you) (Rambam) | ALIGNMENT emphasizes two cases |
| 18 | Ex20-14 | Dont covet a HOUSE; Dont covet a WIFE | Dt20-18 | Dont covet a WIFE; Dont desire a HOUSE | Prohibition of COVETING is | Different ORDERS shows equality of items |

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| | | | | | independent of naturalness of desire | |
| 19 | Ex20-14 | Dont COVET a house; Dont COVET a wife | Dt20-18 | Dont COVET a wife; Dont DESIRE a house | There are two prohibitions: COVET=Pestering someone to sell you something and DESIRING = fantasizing that it really belongs to you (Rambam) | ALIGNMENT emphasizes two prohibitions |
| 20 | Ex20-14 | Don't covet ...slaves AND animals | Dt20-18 | Don't covet ...slaves; animals | Prohibition of COVET=PESTERING for sale applies to COMBINED DEALS (slaves AND animals) as well as INDIVIDUAL DEALS(Slaves, animals) | Lack of AND IN LIST shows 2 cases in list items |

APPENDIX

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