

The RashiYomi NewsLetter

The 10 RashiYomi Rules, Vol 30 #20, Jan. 31, 2019 *Their Presence in this Week's Parshah, TeRuMaH*

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*Today we show several examples of the simplest Rashi technique, the **Reference Method**, which is also called the **Other-Verse** method. Although this method is simple it is the basis of much serious interpretation; in fact, of all methods, it was chosen in the Passover Haggadah in the Chapter expounded. A special rare treat this week: Rashi as a poet composing prayers is seen. **Please send questions on Rashi to RashiYomi@GMail.Com***

Note the structural differences in the list in Ex25-03:07

This is the donation which you shall collect from them:

- Gold
- Silver
- Copper
- Azure
- Royal Violet
- Worm-died wool
- Flax
- Goatskin
- -----
- Oil *for the light*
- Spices *for anointing oil*
- And *for incense*
- Onyx stones and filled stones *for the priestly shirt and the ornament*

Rashi comments on the use of *for* in the last four bullets. Rashi deals with this by citing **References (Other Verses)** discussing the purposes referenced. These references are as detailed in Table 1

Rashi	Item	For...	Reference
Ex25-06a	Oil	Light	Ex27-20
Ex25-06b	Spices	Anointing	Ex32-22:33
Ex25-06c	Spices	Incense	Ex32-34:37
Ex25-07c	Stones	Priest shirt, ornament	Ex28-06:30

This Rashi appears very simple. *All* Rashi does is take an item **Referred** to in the verse and then use the Rashi **Reference method** to identify the referenced item.

Although the **Reference method** appears simple it is very powerful. In fact, the Passover Aggadah in expounding the verse **Dt26-04**, *My father was a wandering Arama'an*, chose, of all exegetical methods, the **Reference** method. Each item in **Dt26-04** is explained through a reference to another verse. So, this is a powerful but simple method by which to introduce people, whether simple people sitting at the Passover table, or more complicated scholars to the characteristics of Biblical research.

I was involved in home-schooling for two years and also from time to time give advice to homeschoolers. I always advocate using the **Reference method** to introduce even young children to commentary and research methods. I have found that even 5 and 7-year old children do well with this type of assignment.

Rashi comments on the following four verses which all seem to refer to the same thing.

Ex26-01 *Make the Temple, 10 curtains*

Ex26-07 *Make goat curtains for a tent on the Temple*

Ex26-14 *Make a covering for the tent, red-dyed ram skins and Tachash skins above*

Ex26-15 *Make the beams for the Temple*

Rashi's job will be to cross reference these four items and indicate what each one was. This is detailed in Table 2

Verse	Verse Text	Rashi explains as referring to...
Ex26-15a	<i>Make the beams for the Temple</i>	Temple structure
Ex26-01a	<i>Make the Temple, 10 curtains</i>	Temple walls and roof
Ex26-07b	<i>Make goat curtains for a tent on the Temple</i>	First covering of roof
Ex26-14a	<i>Make a covering for the tent, red-dyed ram skins and Tachash skins above</i>	2 nd and 3 rd covering of roof

This is a classic illustration of a Rashi comment. Rashi takes four verses which seem to talk about the same thing, making a Temple, and skillfully breaks up the construction into 4 stages, in fact the 4 stages that occur in any building

- First the frame and building skeleton is made
- Second, the walls and roofs are connected to this skeleton
- Third and fourth: Further protection is made to the roof

There is a rare treat in **Ex26-15a**. Rashi in his keen eagle-eyed style notices the following parallelism between verses

- Make an ark, **Ex25-10**
- Make a Table, **Ex25-23**
- Make a Candelabra, **Ex25-31**
- Make the beams for the Temple

What does the mysterious anomalous word *the* refer to? Rashi explains that *the* points to

something. Rashi suggests that the Patriarchs, all of whom built altars to serve God, knew the importance of a Temple, to serve God and therefore planted trees for beams to take with them when they left Egypt. This is inferred from the word *the*. Here Rashi uses the **Database** and **Grammar** methods.

But curiously on this verse Rashi supports his conclusion that the Patriarchs planted these trees for the Jews by referring to a poem in the Hebrew prayer liturgy:

A collection of urgent plantations

The walls of our house, are cedars

Urgently prepared by hand, beforehand

Most people know that Rashi was a biblical commentator; they also know he commented extensively on the Talmud. But he also was the head of a distinguished Talmudic Academy. He authored responsa. He also actually composed about a dozen liturgical poems some of which are available in our prayer books. Rashi actually lived through the 1st crusade, one of the horrific experiences of the Jewish people which surpassed in terror and death what happened in Germany; Rashi poured forth his heart and related the emotional impact of these events in permanent prayers.

APPENDIX

THE 10 RASHI RULE CATEGORIES

A Lightning Summary with Examples

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Rule I-REFERENCE: EXAMPLE: Dt26-05d *We went down to Egypt with a few people* explained by Gn46-27: with 70 people

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Rule 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 (e.g. Dt34-10a) egg 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)** *Marchese* means pot; *Machinate* means frying pan (Lv02-05a, 07a) **EXAMPLE (Homonyms)** 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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Rule III-GRAMMAR: EXAMPLE: BA-ah means COMING not CAME(Gn46-26a)

EXAMPLE: A grammatical conjugation in the Hitpael if 1st root letter is Tzade (Gn44-16a)

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Rule IV-PARALLELISM: EXAMPLE: (Ex20-04) Don't **POSSESS** the gods of others Don't **MAKE** idols RASHI: So both **POSSESS**ion & **MAKING** of idols are prohibited

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Rule V-CONTRADICTION: EXAMPLE: (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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Rule VI-STYLE: RABBI ISHMAEL RULES:

EXAMPLE: (Simple verses should be generalized): (Rashi Pesachim 6) (Dt25-04a) *Don't MUZZLE an OX while THRESHING* RASHI: Don't STOP any WORKING ANIMAL from eating

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Rule VII-FORMATTING: EXAMPLE (BOLD indicated by Repetition): Ex12-09c) 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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Rule 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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Rule 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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Rule 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