

Rashiyomi
Volume 32, Number 8
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Gn23-01a

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Our mission is to show all Rashi comments as Peshat, the simple straightforward meaning of the text following the same laws of interpretation governing ordinary everyday conversation.

The main Rashiomi categories of interpretation are :

- 1) **Grammar:** *Including verb conjugation, rules of style, paragraph development, and all relations of form and meaning*
- 2) **Parallelism:** *Including all nuances and inuendoes arising from same-verse parallelism, multi-verse parallelism, database inquiries, and contradictory verses*
- 3) **Symbolism:** *including parables, images, metaphors, similes, motifs, archetypes, signs, and tokens*
- 4) **Meaning:** *including all figures of speech*



Verse Text Gn23-01a

- a) *These are the years of Sarah*
- b) *The hundred-year [life]*
- c) *The 20-year [life]*
- d) *The 7-year [life]*
- e) *The years of Sarah's life*

Rashi Text:

- a. For this reason: *years* is written with every digit [7-**years**, 20-**years**, 100-**years**]
- b. To teach that each is understood by itself [100-year life, 20-year life...]
- c. At 100 she was like 20 (with regard to sin)
- d. Just as a 20 year old has no punishable sins so was Sarah at 100
- e. At 20 she was like a 7 year old for beauty [Rashiyomi replaces with “innocence”]

Supplementary Material

- This was the very first Rashi elaborated on in 1999 in the Rashi group (then) Mail Jewish in Exile
- It shows the innovations of Rashiyomi
- We have already indicated our interpretation in the translation of the Bible and Rashi
- Note our approach differs from the traditional approach
- The traditional approach asks why the word **year** is repeated 3 times
- The traditional approach bases itself on omnisignificance: Every word of the Torah is pregnant with meaning
- We shall show a totally different approach

RASHI RULES USED TO EXPLAIN THIS RASHI

- This Rashi uses the **Rashi Grammar rule** to explain the text
- The Grammar rule we use today is not known but can easily be inferred from the biblical text
- Quite simply the Grammar rule asks: How do you indicate a number?
- Sounds like a simple question but it turns out it is complex
- One can ask
 - I thought Grammar is what you learn in textbooks from **Grammar authorities**
 - If your rule is not in the textbooks how do you know it? What is Grammar?
- We regard Grammar as any **correlation between meaning and form**

Examples

GRAMMAR EXAMPLES OF DESCRIBING NUMBERS

Verse	Number	How written	
Gn05-06	807	7 Years & 800 Years	
Gn05-08	912	12 years & 900 years	
Gn05-10	815	15 years & 800 years	
Gn05-11	905	5 years & 900 years	
Gn05-22	962	62 years & 900 years	
Gn05-23	365	65 years & 300 years	
Grammar Rule	XYZ	YZ years & X00 years	
Gn23-01	127	27 years & 100 years ← Should be this	
Gn23-01	127	100 years & 20 years & 7 years ← But is this!	

- The Grammar rule is highlighted: If you have X00,YZ years
- it *should* be written in Hebrew
- YZ years & X00 years
- So we have three problems with the 127 years of Sarah
 - 100 years should go last but instead goes first
 - 27 years should be together but instead is separated 7 years and 20 years

Application of Rashi Rule to Gn23-01

- Let us know apply this **Gn23-01** and to Rashi
- Rashi says “For this reason years is written with every digit”
 - It sounds like Rashi is asking why years is repeated
 - But Rashi is not asking that since the grammar rule is to repeat years (27 years and 100 years)
 - Rather Rashi is asking in effect: Year should be repeated 2 times (27 years and 100 years); why is it instead repeated 3 times with each digit (100 years, 20 years, and 7 years)
- Rashi says “To teach that each phrase is understood by itself” (At 100 she was like 20 (for sin))
 - We interpret this as follows
 - The verse can’t be speaking about numbers since numbers would not be indicated that way
 - We therefore interpret the statement of numbers adjectivally: 100-years refers to the 100-year life, 20-years refers to the 20-year life; etc.
 - This technique of changing syntactic function is justified by the strange style violating grammar
- We have left to explain Rashi’s statement At 100 she was like a 20 year old (with respect to sin) and at 20 she was like a 7 year old (with respect to beauty)
- We can ask: What is the 100-year life, the 20-year life, the 7-year life. Here are my opinions
 - The 100 year life = Giving advice from years of experience (Rashi says nothing)
 - The 20 year life = Beauty (Rashi says 20-year life = no sin)
 - The 7 year life = innocence and lack of sin (Rashi says 7 year life = beauty)
- So this is the first time I disagree with Rashi. If anyone can explain Rashi I would greatly appreciate it!
- There might be versions in other manuscripts but I have not checked

DISCUSSION POINTS

- This is an excellent Rashi Digest to illustrate the approach of Rashiyomi
- We do not play games with the number of words (omnisignificance)
- Rashiyomi is based on grammatical rules, figures of speech, parallelism and symbolic nuances
- It was the grammatical rule that bothered Rashi (requiring mention of years twice) not the repetition of years
- We further enhanced Rashi by coining adjectival phrases: The 100-year life, the 20 year life, the 7 year life
- We feel this is the way that Rashi should be taught and learned
- *Praise be Him Who Chose Them and Their Learning*