

ParShaT **Ki TiSaH** - One Pager Series

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Rashi #1: Biblical Text: Ex31-13a

Paragraph 1: For the *Temple* (1), take half dollar taxes

Paragraph 2: For the *Temple* (1), make a copper laver

Paragraph 3: For the *Temple* (1), make anointing oil

Paragraph 4: For the *Temple* (1), Make incense

Paragraph 5: BEZALEL (2): In charge of *Temple* (1) construction

Paragraph 6: You [MOSES(2)], usually(3) observe the *Sabbath*(1)

Rashi Text: #1, #2, #3: Rashiyomi Explanation: The Rashi comments are linked to the biblical text with the parenthetical numbers as shown above. The full Rashi text is summarized after explaining them.

- (1) Notice, as indicated by the italics, that there are five paragraphs dealing with *Temple* following by a paragraph dealing with *Sabbath*. Rashi explains: *The Sabbath must be observed even when building the Temple*. [You cannot do any Temple building on the Sabbath]
- (2) Notice the parallel contrast of the small-cap words: The first paragraph deals with Bezalel; the 2nd paragraph deals with Moses. This establishes a contrast. Rashi explains that God in effect tells Moses: It is Bezalel who will be in charge of building the Temple; contrastively, you Moses, will be in charge of admonishing on Sabbath observance, that the Sabbath must be observed even while building the Temple
- (3) A contribution of Rashiyomi is that the word *ach* should be translated as *most of the time, usually, probably*. (Hendel, The Meaning of Ach, *Jewish Bible Quarterly*, 33(2), 100 – 109, 2005, on the web). When even a 10-year old hears the biblical phrase, “*usually* observe the Sabbath,” the instant, immediate reaction is “Usually? You mean you don’t always have to do it? When don’t you have to observe the Sabbath?” Rashi explains: TO EXCEPT SABBATH OBSERVANCE FROM TEMPLE SERVICE In other words, in the Temple, Daily offerings are offered on the Sabbath, a TEMPLE SERVICE, even though these offerings involve fire, which is prohibited on the Sabbath.

Full Rashi Text: #2: And you Moses, even though I [originally] appointed you to command on the Temple service [Now I have appointed Bezalel on that task] [instead command them] don’t make light of observing the Sabbath because of pursuing that building.

Full Rashi Text: #3: All occurrences of *ach* and *only* (*rak*) limit. To limit Sabbath [observance] from the Temple Service [Here Temple Service means Daily offerings; in other words; they are offered even though they involve fire and would otherwise be prohibited]

Full Rashi Text: #1: Even though you will be energetic and pursue the building of the Temple [that is the first five paragraphs – the collection of taxes, the building of the laver, the making of anointing oil and incense], do not desecrate the Sabbath for these things.

Comments: 1) Without the Rashiyomi explanation, it isn’t clear which phrase in Rashi is addressing which comment.
2) This one-pager is excerpted from chapters in the Rashi-book where the Ramban-Rashi controversy is resolved.