

KI TISA

Exodus Chapter 30

Both

English

Hebrew

HIDE RASHI'S COMMENTARY

11. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

יא וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

12. "When you take the sum of the children of Israel according to their numbers, let each one give to the Lord an atonement for his soul when they are counted; then there will be no plague among them when they are counted.

יב כִּי תִשָּׂא אֶת־רֹאשׁ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְקֻדֵיהֶם וְנִתְּנוּ
אִישׁ כֶּפֶר נַפְשׁוֹ לַיהוָה בַּפְּקֹד אַתֶּם וְלֹא־יְהִי בָהֶם
נֶגֶף בַּפְּקֹד אַתֶּם:

When you take: Heb. כִּי תִשָּׂא. [This is] an expression of taking, as the Targum [Onkelos] renders. [I.e.,] when you wish to take the sum [total] of their numbers to know how many they are, do not count them by the head, but each one shall give a half-shekel, and you shall count the shekels. [Thereby] you will know their number.

כי תשא: לשון קבלה, כתרגומו, כשתחפוץ לקבל סכום מנינם לדעת כמה הם, אל תמנעם לגלגולת, אלא יתנו כל אחד מחצית השקל ותמנה את השקלים ותדע מנינם:

then there will be no plague among them: for the evil eye has power over numbered things, and pestilence comes upon them, as we find in David's time (II Sam. 24).

ולא יהיה בהם נגף: שהמנין שולט בו עין הרע והדבר בא עליהם, כמו שמצינו בימי דוד:

13. This they shall give, everyone who goes through the counting: half a shekel according to the holy shekel. Twenty gerahs equal one shekel; half of [such] a shekel shall be an offering to the Lord.

יג זֶה | יִתְּנוּ כָּל־הָעֶבֶר עַל־הַפְּקֻדִים מִחֻצֵית הַשֶּׁקֶל
בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ עֶשְׂרִים גֵּרָה הַשֶּׁקֶל מִחֻצֵית הַשֶּׁקֶל
תְּרוּמָה לַיהוָה:

This they shall give: He [God] showed him [Moses] a sort of coin of fire weighing half a shekel, and He said to him, "Like this one they shall give." - [from Tanchuma 9; Tanchuma Buber, Naso p. 35; Pesikta d'Rav Kahana 19a; Midrash [Psalms 91:1](#); Yerushalmi, Shekalim 1:4]

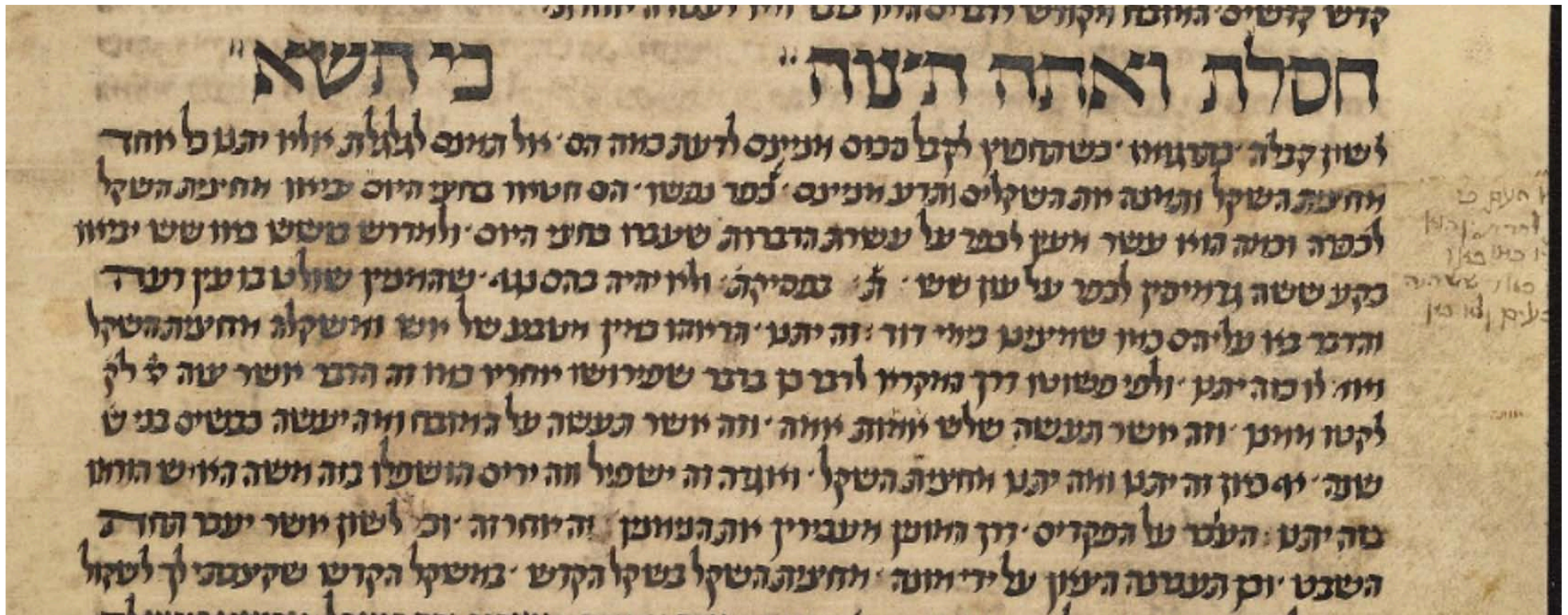
זה יתנו: הראה לו כמין מטבע של אש, ומשקלה מחצית השקל, ואומר לו כזה יתנו:

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Midrash Tanchuma, Ki Tisa 10:1

(1) This they shall give, everyone that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel (Exod. 30:13). Because they had sinned at the sixth hour,¹⁶Word-play reading the word boshet (“shame, disgrace”) as bo shish (“the sixth hour”); thus, “The sixth hour came, they erected the golden calf.” which is the middle of the day, they shall give half a shekel, which is six grammata. R. Johanan declared: Because they had violated the Ten Commandments each one had to give ten gerah, which totals half a shekel. R. Simeon the son of Levi said: Because they sold Rachel’s firstborn for twenty pieces of silver and each one took a coin for himself, each one had to give one coin.

Midrash Tanchuma, Ki Tisa 9:5

(5) This they shall give. R. Menahem said: The Holy One, blessed be He, removed from beneath His throne of glory a coin of fire (the size of a half-shekel coin) and showed it to Moses. Then He said to him: This they shall give. That is to say, everyone who passes by as the census is taken shall give something similar to them.