

Rashi Timeline

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Very important to give a historical background of Rashi's life before starting to learn Rashi.

Picture #1: Yoledes Rashi –

Roshei Teivos Reb Sholomo Yitzchaki born in 1040 in Troish, France.

Story about father – he was very poor, difficult parnossah. One day he found a very expensive stone and wanted to sell it. Some goyim wanted to buy the stone to put in idols eye. He didn't want to sell it to them even for a lot of money, so he threw the stone into the water. A bas kol came out and said "you threw away the stone and made a Kiddush hashem. In this zchus, you will have a son who will be like a shining gem in klal yisrael." Rashi was born a year later.

Story about mother – She was born during difficult time for Jews, because 11th century there a Catholic ruler who suppressed the Yidden in order that Catholicism should thrive. This is different than the Islamic coutnires who appreciated the chochma of Yidden and so let them be mekayaim mitzvos. Before Rashi was born, his mother passed through a very narrow street. A chariot with horses came riding down the street and she didn't have where to move. The driver wanted to just run her over. As it came closer, she became scared and pressed herself against the wall. Hashem made a nes and the wall opened up to hold her. The chariot rode by without touching her. This wall still exists in Romaiza, France.

Picture #2: Hevei Gole l'Makkom Torah

Rashi was an excellent child. He learned first from his father, and then from all the rabbonim in his city. When he was 18, there was nobody left to teach him. So he left his wife and family behind and went to Romaiza, where there were two big yeshivas. He learned there for 8 years in spite hardship. He was koneh a lot of chochma and daas. When he was 25, he came back to Troish. He was considered one of the biggest Meforshei Hatalmid. From all over the world, he received questions on Talmud. His answers were so clear that not only the regular people of his generation saw his greatness but all the gedolei hador recognized his knowledge and gadlus; they called him "Rabban shel yisrael"

Picture #3:

Rashi was Rav of Troish. Didn't want to take money. For his parnossa, he had a vineyard. Most of his time, he spent learning. He had three daughters and his grandsons are Rabbeinu Tam, Rashbam, Rabbi Yaakov ben Meir.

Picture #4/5

At end of his life, it was very bad times for klal yisrael. A lot of gezeiros. Many yeshivas and communities were destroyed. Before he was niftar, he was writing the mesechta of makkos and when he wrote the word טהור," he was niftar. Niftar at 65. A bas kol came out and said "עתידים כל ישראל להיות בניך".

Grade Level:

Middle Elementary (4-5)

Educational Goals/Objectives:

Students will learn Rashi's biography. Using picture reference cards, students will review the major events in Rashi's life.

Description:

Before beginning to learn Rashi's commentary, it is important for students to understand the greatness and significance of his Torah learning amidst

