

Thirteen Principles of Torah Elucidation

An overview of the Oral Torah's systemized rules for how the Written Torah may be interpreted.

Lesson Three: Rules Three to Seven of Torah Elucidation

Various rules for understanding the interrelationship between comprehensive and detailed statements made in the Torah. Principles 3-7 are covered in this lesson.

Rule 3

Two Kinds of Binyan Av ("Construction of a Father"):

Rule 3a

Binyan Av mi-Katuv Echad (בנין אב מכתוב אחד) = "One passage that sets forth a general rule for other passages."

A Precedent or Archetypical Case

Rule 3b

Binyan Av mi-Sh'nei Ketuvim (בנין אב משני כתובים) = "A pair of passages that together set forth a general rule for other passages."

A Pair of Precedents

Rule 4

Klal u-Prat (כלל ופרט) = A generality followed by a specification

A Comprehensive Rule Limited by a Specification
(The specification precludes the generality from being used to construct a Binyan Av.)

Rule 5

Prat u-Klal (פרט וכלל) = A specification followed by a generality

A Particular Instance Followed a Comprehensive Rule
(The specification prevents the use of another one of the 13 Principles from being used to exclude the specified instances.)

Rule 6

Klal u-Prat u-Klal (כלל ופרט וכלל) - A comprehensive statement followed by a specification that is followed by another comprehensive statement

A Comprehensive Law which Applies Only to Cases Similar to the Specification

Rule 7

Klal SheHu Tzarich Li-Prat - Prat SheHu Tzarich LiKlal (כלל שהוא צריך לפרט - פרט שהוא צריך לכלל) - A comprehensive statement that requires specification (and) a specific case that requires a general rule

An Ambiguous Statement Whose Meaning is Elucidated by Another