What's Bothering Rashi?

Vayakahel-Pikudei

שמות מ':ל"ד-ל"ח

And he set up the enclosure around the Tabernacle and the altar, and put up the screen for the gate of the enclosure. When Moses had finished the work (34) the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Presence of HaShem filled the Tabernacle. (35) Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud had settled upon it and the Presence of the HaShem filled the Tabernacle. (36) When the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the Israelites would set out, on their various journeys; (37) but if the cloud did not lift, they would not set out until such time as it did lift. (38) For over the

(לד) וַיְכַס הֶעָנָן אֶת־אָהֶל מוֹעֵד וּכְבָּוֹד יי מְלֵא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכֵּן: (לה) <mark>וְלֹא־נָכְל מֹשֶׁה לָבוֹא אֶל־אָּהֶל</mark> מוֹעֵד כִּי־שָׁכַן עָלָיו הֶעָנָן וּכְבְּוֹד יי מָלֵא אֶת־ הַמִּשְׁבָּן: (לו) וּבְהַעָלְוֹת הֶעָנָן מֵעַל הַמִּשְׁכָּן יִסְעָוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּלַל מַסְעֵיהֶם: (לו) וְאִם־לָּא יִעָלָה הֶעָנֶן וְלָא יִסְעוּ עַד־יַוֹם הֵעָלֹתְוֹ: (לח) כִּי עְנַן יי עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן יוֹמָם וְאֵשׁ תִּהְיָה לַיְלָה בְּוֹ לְעֵינֵי כָל־ בֵּית־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל־מַסְעֵיהֶם:

Rashi on Exodus 40:35

journeys.

ולא יכל משה לבוא אל אהל מועד (1) ולא יכל משה לבוא אל אהל מועד (1) MOSES COULD NOT ENTER THE TENT OF MEETING — But another verse says, (Numbers 7:89) "And when Moses came into the appointed tent"!

Tabernacle a cloud of HaShem

rested by day, and fire would appear in it by night, in the view of all the house of Israel throughout their

רש"י על שמות מי:ל״ה

(א) ולא יכל משה לבוא אל אהל מועד. וְכָתוּב אֶחָד אוֹמֵר וּבְבאׁ מֹשֶׁה אֶל אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד (במדבר ז')? בָּא הַכָּתוּב הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וְהִכְרִיעַ בִּינֵיהֶם – כִּי שָׁכַן עָלָיו הָעָנָן, אֱמֹר מֵעַתָּה כָּל זְמַן שֶׁהָיָה עָלָיו הָעָנָן לֹא הָיָה יָכוֹל לָבאׁ, נְסְתַּלֵּק הֶעָנָן נִכְנָס וּמְדֵבּר עִמּוֹ (ספרא):

Numbers 7:89 במדבר ז':פ"ט

(89) When Moses went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with Him, he would hear the Voice addressing him from above the cover that was on top of the Ark of the Pact between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.

(פּט) וּבְבֹא מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אָהֶל מוֹעֵד ֹ לְדַבֵּר אָתוֹ וַיִּשְׁמַע אֶת־הַקּוֹל מִדַבֵּר אֵלָיו מַעַל הַכַּפּּׁרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל־אֲרָן הָעֵלֻת מָבֵין שְׁנִי הַכְּרֵבִים וַיִּדַבֵּר אֵלָיו: (פּ)

Exodus 24:18

(18) Moses went inside the cloud and ascended the mountain; and Moses remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

(יח) וַיָּבָא מֹשֶׁה בְּתִוֹךְ הֶעָנָן וַיִּעַל אֶל־ הָהָר וַיְהָי מִּשֶׁהֹ בָּהָר אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם

וְאַרְבָּעִים לֵיְלָה: (פּ)

שמות כ״ד:י״ח

Rashi's Solution:

There comes, however, a third verse and reconciles these apparently contradictory verses, for it says here כי שכן עליו העבן "Because (or for or when) the cloud had settled upon it." Hence you may say: so long as the cloud was upon it "he was not able to come into the appointed tent", but as soon as the cloud disappeared he entered it and spoke with Him (Sifra, Braita d'Rabbi Yishmael 18).

Ramban's Solution:

Leviticus 1:1

(1) HaShem called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying:

ויקרא א':א'

(א) <mark>וִיִּקְרָא אֶל־מֹשֶׁה</mark> וַיְדַבֵּר יי אֵלְיו מַאָּהֶל מוֹצֵד לֵאמְר: