

Lamentations Rabbah 1:1C

Commentary on Lamentations 1:1

Rabbi Levi said: Israel did not go into exile until they had repudiated the thirty-six ordinances in the Torah for which the penalty is excision (commandments for which the penalty is stated, *That soul shall be cut off from its people*), and also the Decalogue. Whence have we this? From the numerical value of the letters constituting the words *Ekah* (אֵיכָה numerical value = 36) and *badad* (בַּדָּד 'solitary', value = 10).

R. Berekiah said in the name of R. Abdimi of Haifa: It may be likened to a king who had a son. So long as he obeyed the will of his father he clothed him in garments of fine wool, but when he disregarded his will he clothed him in exiles' garments. Similarly with Israel. So long as they obeyed the will of the Holy One, blessed be He, it is written, *I clothed you with richly woven work* (Ezek. 16:10). (R. Sima said: The word means "in purple garments," and Onkelos renders by "embroidered garments.") But when they disregarded the will of the Holy One, blessed be He, He clothed them in exiles' garments (*bedadin* בַּדְּדִין), as it is written, *Alas! Lonely sits the city* (Lam. 1:1 אֵיכָה יֹשְׁבֵה בְּדָד הָעִיר)