

Lamentations 4 • The Beginning of Wisdom

1. (v.1-6) The beginning of wisdom that leads the **backslidden** to see things as God sees them is to stop trying to **redefine** His ways to conform to their own **lifestyle**, but to actually change their **life** to conform to **HIM**.
2. (v.7-8) The result of **iniquity** is to become spiritually **unrecognizable**. They have become as **twisted** as the ways of God they themselves **twisted**.
3. (v.9-10) They trusted in the things of this **world** rather than the things of **God**, so the things of this **world** are literally failing to fulfill or even meet their **needs**.
4. (v.11-12) There was a false belief that God was protecting something **physical** regardless of the **spiritual** condition of its inhabitants.
5. (v.13-15) They so completely redefined what it meant to **serve** God that it resulted in their becoming "**defiled**", **unfit** for the very presence and service of God.
6. (v.16-20) For these circumstances, the beginning of wisdom is to understand they are not experiencing a **test** of **faith** or **persecution** by the world, but **judgment** for **unfaithfulness**.
7. (v.21-22) Punishment does not go on **forever** for those working toward **reconciliation**—the **end** is in sight.