

# Amos 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

## Analysis

**I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest** (וְגַם אֲנֹכִי מִנְעֹתִי מִכֶּם אֶת־הַגֶּשֶׁם בְּעוֹד שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים לְקָצִיר)—God controls weather patterns to discipline covenant violators. The 'three months to harvest' specifies the critical late spring rains (March-April) essential for grain maturation. Without them, crops fail. **I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city** (וְהִמְטַרְתִּי עַל־עִיר אֶחָת וְעַל־עִיר אֶחָת לֹא אֶמְטִיר)—Selective judgment demonstrated divine intentionality. Random weather is natural; discriminate drought is supernatural warning.

This second disciplinary measure escalates from famine (v. 6) to drought. The Hebrew emphasizes divine agency: 'I withholden... I caused... I caused not.' Israel couldn't blame climate—God orchestrated these patterns. Deuteronomy 28:23-24 warned: 'Thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.' When covenant blessings (rain, fertility) become covenant curses (drought, barrenness), the message is unmistakable: return to God. Yet Israel's response? 'Yet have ye not returned unto me.'

## Historical Context

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Israel's agricultural economy depended entirely on seasonal rains. The early rains (Oct-Nov) softened ground for plowing; late rains (Mar-Apr) matured crops for May harvest. Mediterranean climate made Israel perpetually vulnerable to drought, necessitating absolute dependence on God's provision (Deuteronomy 11:10-17). Amos shows God using natural patterns to communicate covenantal realities.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's sovereign control over 'secular' realities like weather challenge your tendency to separate sacred and secular spheres of life?
2. When blessings you assumed were automatic suddenly disappear, do you recognize potential divine discipline calling you to examine your walk with God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְגַם	אֲנֹכִי	מִן עֵתִי	מִכָּה	אֶת	הַגֶּשֶׁם	בָּעוֹד
H1571	H595		H4480	H853		H5750
And also I have withholden			the rain			
			H1653			
שְׁלֹשׁ הַ			חֳדָשִׁים	לִקְצֹר יָר	תִּמְטֵ יָר	
from you when there were yet three			months	to the harvest	and I caused it to rain	
H7969			H2320	H7105	H4305	
עַל	עַ יָר	אֶחָת	עַ יָר	אֶחָת	לֹא	תִמְטֵ יָר
H5921	city	one	H5921	city	one	H3808
	H5892	H259		H5892	H259	and I caused it to rain
						H4305
אֶחָת			תִּמְטֵ יָר	וְחִלְקָהּ הַ	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
piece			and I caused it to rain	piece	H834	H3808
H2513			H4305	H2513		
תִּמְטֵ יָר			עַל יָהּ	תִּיבֹשׁ:		
and I caused it to rain			H5921	not withered		
H4305			H3001			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 3:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

**Exodus 9:26** (Parallel theme): Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

**Isaiah 5:6** (Parallel theme): And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

**Exodus 9:4** (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.

**Exodus 10:23** (Parallel theme): They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

**James 5:17** (Parallel theme): Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

**Joel 2:23** (Parallel theme): Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

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