

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 אָנֹכִי מִנְעַתִּי מִכֶּם אֶת-הַגָּשָׁם בְּעוֹד שֶׁלֶשׁ חֳדָשִׁים לְקָצֵיר) 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**—(וְהַמְּטֻרָה עַל-עִיר אֲפָת וְעַל-עִיר אֲפָת לֹא אֲמְטִיר) 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

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

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

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

בְּעֵד וְבָגְשָׁם אַתָּה מִכְּמָה
H1571 H595 And also I have withheld H4513 H4480 H853 H1653 H5750

תִּמְצֵא יְרֵא לְקַצְּצִים שְׁלַשׁ הַ
from you when there were yet three months to the harvest and I caused it to rain
H7969 H2320 H7105 H4305

תִּמְצֵא יְרֵא לְאַתָּה עַל עַיְרֵת עַל אַתָּה עַל עַיְרֵת עַל אַתָּה עַל עַיְרֵת
H5921 city H259 H5921 one H259 H5921 city H259 H5921 one H259 H5921 and I caused it to rain H4305

לֹא אֲשֶׁר וַיַּלְקַח הַ אַתָּה תִּמְצֵא יְרֵא אַתָּה וַיַּלְקַח הַ
piece H2513 one H259 and I caused it to rain H4305 piece H2513 H834 H3808

תִּמְצֵא יְרֵא עַל יְמִינְךָ: וַיַּלְקַח הַ
and I caused it to rain H4305 H5921 not withered H3001

Additional Cross-References

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 briers 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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