

Amos 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

Analysis

Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me (koh hir'ani Adonai YHWH, כֹּה הִרְאֵנִי יְהוָה)—this introduces the first of five symbolic visions (7:1-9, 8:1-3, 9:1-4) revealing God's intentions toward Israel. The phrase "showed me" (hir'ani, from רָאָה ra'ah, "to see") indicates prophetic vision—God visually reveals His purposes to Amos, who then reports them.

He formed grasshoppers (yotzer govai, יוֹצֵר גֹּבַי)—the verb yatsar (יָצַר, "formed/fashioned") is used of God creating Adam (Genesis 2:7) and forming Israel (Isaiah 43:1, 44:2, 21). Here God "forms" or "creates" a locust swarm (govai, likely young locusts/grasshoppers). This connects to covenant curses: Deuteronomy 28:38, 42 threatens locust devastation if Israel violates covenant. The timing matters: **in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings** (bitkillot la'alot halaqesh vehineh-leqesh achar gizei hamelekh)—the "latter growth" was the second crop after the king took his portion. Locusts devouring this crop meant total loss—the people would starve.

Verse 2 continues: Amos intercedes, and God relents ("The LORD repented for this: It shall not be"). This vision teaches several truths:

1. God's judgments are warnings, not inevitable fate—repentance can avert them

2. prophetic intercession matters—Amos's prayer moved God
3. God's "repentance" (relenting/changing course) doesn't contradict His immutability but demonstrates His responsiveness to human repentance and intercession (Exodus 32:14

Jonah 3:10).

Historical Context

Locust plagues were devastating in the ancient Near East, capable of destroying entire harvests in hours (Exodus 10:1-20; Joel 1:4). The "king's mowings" refers to the royal tax—kings claimed first portion of crops (1 Samuel 8:15). The second growth fed the people; if locusts destroyed it, famine resulted. Amos's vision shows God forming judgment, but his intercession delays it. This pattern continues through chapters 7-8: God shows judgment, Amos prays, God relents—until finally God declares, "I will not again pass by them any more" (7:8, 8:2). Israel's persistent impenitence exhausted divine patience.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do God's warnings of judgment demonstrate His mercy in providing opportunity for repentance?
2. What role does intercessory prayer play in averting or delaying divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה H3541	הִרְאֵנִי shewed H7200	אֲדֹנָי Thus hath the Lord H136	יְהוָה GOD H3069	יְהִינָה H2009
	וְיֹצֵא unto me and behold he formed H3335	גַּבֵּי grasshoppers H1462	בְּתֵחֶלֶת in the beginning H8462	עַל וְתִּשָּׁרֵף of the shooting up H5927
	לְקֹשׁ and lo it was the latter growth H3954	וְהָיָה H2009	לְקֹשׁ and lo it was the latter growth H3954	אַחֲרָיו after H310
	גִּזְיוֹ mowings H1488	הַמֶּלֶךְ: the king's H4428		

Additional Cross-References

Joel 1:4 (Parallel theme): That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

Amos 8:1 (References God): Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.

Amos 4:9 (References Lord): I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.