

# 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, כה הָרְאָתִי אֲדֹנָי—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, יָצַר גּוֹבֵי—the verb yatsar (יצַר), "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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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הִנֵּה אָדָן וְהָרָא נִכְנָא כִּי

H3541

shewed

H7200

Thus hath the Lord

H136

יְהוָה הִנֵּה

H2009

GOD

H3069

וַיַּצֵּר

גְּבָרִים

בְּתִחְלַת

עַל וְתַ

unto me and behold he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up

H3335

H1462

H8462

H5927

לְקַשׁ

וְנַחֲנָה

לְקַשׁ

אַמְרָה

and lo it was the latter growth

H2009

and lo it was the latter growth

H3954

H3954

H310

הַמְלָחָה גַּם

mowings the king's

H1488

H4428

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.