

# Amos 7

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## Vision of the Locusts

<sup>1</sup> Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed *it was* the late crop after the king's mowings. <sup>2</sup> And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said:

"O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray!  
Oh, that Jacob may stand,  
For he *is* small!"

<sup>3</sup> So the LORD relented concerning this.  
"It shall not be," said the LORD.

**The king's mowings:** גִּזְיַי הַמֶּלֶךְ *gizey ha-melekh* mowings of the king. Shearing of sheep, mowing of lawn. Apparently a tax on wool and

**The Lord relented:** נִחַם ה' *nikham [yvh]* had compassion [the Lord].

Of the 108 times this word appears in the Bible, the AV translates as 'comfort' or 'comforter' 66 times and 'repent' 41 times (once as 'ease'). Since our sinless God does not truly repent, as in feeling sorry for a wrong action, an alternate meaning is indicated, thus 'compassion.'

## Vision of the Fire

<sup>4</sup> Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, the Lord GOD called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory. <sup>5</sup> Then I said:

"O Lord GOD, cease, I pray!  
Oh, that Jacob may stand,  
For he *is* small!"

<sup>6</sup> So the LORD relented concerning this.  
"This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

**Called for conflict by fire:** קָרָא לְרִב בְּאֵשׁ *kore la-riv ba-esh* call to fight in the fire.

**The great deep:** תְּהוֹמוֹ רַבָּה *t'hom rabah* deep [places] great. Unspecified deep places.

**The territory:** חֵלֶק *ha-khelek* the portion.

Part of the blessing upon Yosef (Joseph) in D'varim (Deuteronomy) 30.13

13 And of Joseph he said:

"Blessed of the LORD *is* his land,  
With the precious things of heaven, with the dew,  
And the deep lying beneath,

Deep is equated to mountains in T'hilim (Psalm) 36.6

6 Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains;  
Your judgments *are* a great deep;  
O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

And 95.4

4 In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth;  
The heights of the hills *are* His also.

Hmmm... conflict by fire, consuming mountains... volcanos?

## Vision of the Plumb Line

7 Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall *made* with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand.  
8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?"  
And I said, "A plumb line."  
Then the Lord said:

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line  
In the midst of My people Israel;  
I will not pass by them anymore.  
9 The high places of Isaac shall be desolate,  
And the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste.  
I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam."

**Plumb line:** a tool for measuring a straight vertical line. Upright **יָשָׁר** *yashar*, the result of a plumb line, is often used as a description of

Iyov (Job) 1.1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

T'hilim (Psalm) 7.10

10 My defense *is* of God,  
Who saves the upright in heart.

## Amaziah's Complaint

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.

**Amaziah:** אִמְצִיָּהּ *amatz'yah* mighty [is] God.

<sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said:

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
And Israel shall surely be led away captive  
From their own land.' "

<sup>12</sup> Then Amaziah said to Amos:

"Go, you seer!  
Flee to the land of Judah.  
There eat bread,  
And there prophesy.  
<sup>13</sup> But never again prophesy at Bethel,  
For it *is* the king's sanctuary,  
And it *is* the royal residence."

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah:

"I *was* no prophet,  
Nor *was* I a son of a prophet,  
But I *was* a sheepbreeder  
And a tender of sycamore fruit.

**Sheepbreeder:** בֹּקֵר *boker* herdsman.

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock,  
And the LORD said to me,  
'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

<sup>16</sup> Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD:  
You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,  
And do not spout against the house of Isaac.'

<sup>17</sup> "Therefore thus says the LORD:

'Your wife shall be a harlot in the city;  
Your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword;  
Your land shall be divided by *survey* line;  
You shall die in a defiled land;  
And Israel shall surely be led away captive  
From his own land.' "

**Lead away captive:** possibly fulfilled in M'lakhim bet (2 Kings) 18.9-12 or 23.15-20