IBH 36.7, Section C, Jer 4:23–26

Translation
23 I looked at the earth, and behold, (it) (was) formless and void. And (I looked) to the heavens, and they had no light.
24 I looked at the mountains, and behold, (they) (were) quaking, and all the hills trembled/were shaken.
25 I looked, and behold, there was no man, and every bird of the heavens fled (or ‘had fled’).
26 I looked, and behold, the fruitful place (was) the wilderness, and all its cities were broken/torn down before YHWH, before his burning anger.

Hebrew Text

23 רָאִיתִי אֶת הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ: רָאִיתִי אֶל הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵין אוֹרָם׃
24 רָאִיתִי הֶהָרִים וְרֹעֲשִׁים כָּל הַגְּבָעוֹת הִתְקַלְקָלוּ׃
25 רָאִיתִי וְהִנֵּה אֵין הָאָדָם וְכָל עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם נָדָדוּ׃
26 רָאִיתִי וְהִנֵּה הַכַּרְמֶל הַמִּדְבָּר וְכָל עָרָיו נִתְּצוּ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה מִפְּנֵי חֲרוֹן אַפּו׃

1 רָאִיתִי Qal pft 1cs, ‘to see, look at’. Note the parallel structure, where this verb in the identical form occurs begins each verse in this passage.
2 This expression, תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ, appears to intentionally evoke Gen 1:2. Whereas YHWH had formed the orderly creation out of the chaos of ‘formless and void’, here Israel has become ‘formless and void’. This is a decreation theme. At the end of the creation week, God makes man, אָדָם. But here, Jeremiah looks but cannot see אָדָם!
3 In this clause, the verb and its subject are elliptical (or gapped) from the prior clause. Thus, we should supply the verb רָאִיתִי, such that the אֶל-PP is adverbial to this implied verb: ‘I look to the heavens….’
4 רֹעֲשִׁי Qal ptc mp abs. ‘to shake, quake’. This is a predicate participle in a null-copula clause (that is, the copula ‘was’ is unstated but implied); the S (subject) is also null, but given the context we can recover it easily as ‘the mountains’.
5 Ross tells you this verb means ‘trembled’. Its parsing is difficult because this comes from a rare verbal stem: קלל Hithpalpel pft 3cp ‘to be shaken, to be jolted to and fro’.
6 נִדְרֵד Qal pft 3cp ‘to flee, escape’. Even though the word for ‘bird’ is singular, when used with כל (‘every bird’) it takes on a plural sense; hence the 3cp verbal inflection.
7 Again, we have a null-copula (or verbless) clause where the copula ‘was’ is implied but unwritten.
8 נִתְּצוּ Ni pft 3cp ‘to be pulled/torn down, to be ruined’. The nun that’s visible here in נַתְּצוּ is the Niphal prefix-nun, and the R1-nun has assimilated to the taw (thus the DF).