

REVERSAL OF CREATION TO CHAOS IN JEREMIAH 4: 23-26

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| EARTH | <u>tōhû wā-bōhû</u> |
| HEAVENS | NO LIGHT |
| MOUNTAINS | REMOVED |
| MAN | NO MAN |
| BIRDS | FLED |
| FRUITFUL LAND | A WILDERNESS |
| CITIES | DISMANTLED |

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

“Genesis 1:1-3”

Exegetical/Interpretive Issues

5. Meaning of *tohu wa-bohu*

- A state of material prior to its creation; material to which an orderly arrangement, a cosmos, a creating has not yet taken place
- It denotes the contrary of creation and not merely an inferior stage of creation (Is. 45:18)
- This precreative state is not necessarily the result of judgment
- Other usage: Isaiah 34:11; Jeremiah 4:23-26