

# Listening Guide

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## **I. Introduction to Joel, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk**

[1] Where did Joel, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk minister?

[2] When did Joel, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk minister?

## **II. Book of Joel**

[3] What did Joel use to picture his prophetic announcement?

### **A. Locust Invasion (Joel 1:2–11)**

[4] What two options are possible to interpret Joel's symbol?

[5] Which option did Dr. Stuart lean toward?

[6] How are Babylon's armies and the locusts alike?

[7] What do both Joel and Jeremiah say about the Babylonians?

[8] What was Joel inspired to do with his description of the locust invasion?

**B. Deliverance Promised If Israel Repents (Joel 2:12–32)**

[9] What did Dr. Stuart say Judah was supposed to do?

[10] What message does Scripture always offer?

[11] What does it mean that Joel's book has a bifid structure?

**[12]** What are the two parts of Joel's bifid?

**[13]** What is the turning point that occurs in Joel 2:18?

**[14]** What actual seas did the eastern and western seas represent?

**[15]** What did the area between the seas encompass?

**[16]** How did God often use agricultural imagery?

**[17]** How would you explain the meaning of "the democratization of the Holy Spirit"?

[18] How does the democratization of the Holy Spirit become a feature of the new covenant age?

[19] How did Dr. Stuart picture people who have access to the Holy Spirit but choose to ignore Him?

[20] What is the one thing we must do to be saved?

**C. Judgment on the Nations and Israel's Restoration (Joel 3:1–21)**

[21] What qualified a nation to come under the condemnation Joel pronounced?

[22] What will God do with His people?

[23] How does Joel's message contrast with Isaiah's and Micah's?

[24] In what way is Joel's view of Jerusalem like the one in the book of Revelation?

### **III. Book of Zephaniah**

[25] What is Zephaniah's theme?

#### **A. The Day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:1–2:3)**

[26] When did Zephaniah minister to Judah?

[27] What was the tone of his message?

[28] Where else in the Bible do we find language similar to Zephaniah's?

[29] What is God's ultimate plan?

[30] Why was God judging His people?

[31] Why was the Day of the Lord going to be different from what Israel anticipated?

[32] How was the Day of the Lord different from what Israel thought it would be?

[33] What could God's people do to change their own relationship to the Day of the Lord?

**B. Oracles Against Foreign Nations (Zephaniah 2:4–15)**

[34] What nations are included with the nations that oppressed Israel?

**C. Moral State of Israel (Zephaniah 3:1–20)**

[35] Of what were Jerusalem's leaders, including the priests, guilty?

[36] How does Zephaniah end in chapter 3?

#### **IV. Book of Habakkuk**

[37] What particular thing is Habakkuk famous for?

[38] What must one do to make Habakkuk's famous statement richer?

##### **A. Habakkuk's First Complaint and God's Reply (1:1–11)**

[39] Describe Habakkuk's first complaint.

[40] What was God's answer to Habakkuk's first complaint?

[41] Why was God's answer problematic to Habakkuk? What was his second complaint?

**B. Habakkuk's Second Complaint and God's Reply (1:12–2:20)**

[42] What was God's answer to Habakkuk's second complaint?

[43] Who did God use to fulfill His reply to Habakkuk's second complaint?

[44] Although Habakkuk couldn't change God's plans, what could he change?

[45] How do you manage with what Dr. Stuart called "our assignment"?

[46] How did Habakkuk do with what Dr. Stuart called "our assignment"?

[47] What is God's assignment that was stated by Habakkuk in 2:4 and repeated by Paul and by Martin Luther?



## **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

## **Application**

These three prophets who ministered in Judah's final days could still offer God's forgiveness and restoration to those individuals who repented, confessed, and "lived by faith." Because those of us living under God's new covenant are often as disobedient as those who lived under the old covenant, we sometimes (frequently?) need to repent, confess, and renew our commitment to live by faith. How clear is your record? Have you recently come to God with genuine repentance and a renewed commitment to live by faith in His promise of forgiveness?