

**Purpose of Justice**  
**Zephaniah 3**  
**August 8, 2021**

**Main Idea:** God's purpose for justice differs from my pursuit of justice.

**Justice** = loving what is good and hating what is evil.

**1. MY PURSUIT OF JUSTICE**

**Zephaniah 3:1-2**

1. Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled,  
the oppressing city!  
2. She listens to no voice;  
she accepts no correction.  
She does not trust in the Lord;  
she does not draw near to her God.

**Zephaniah 3:3-4**

3 Her officials within her  
are roaring lions;  
her judges are evening wolves  
that leave nothing till the morning.  
4 Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men;  
her priests profane what is holy;  
they do violence to the law.

**Micah 3:11**

11 Its heads give judgment for a bribe;  
its priests teach for a price;  
its prophets practice divination for money;  
yet they lean on the Lord and say,  
"Is not the Lord in the midst of us?  
No disaster shall come upon us."

**Zephaniah 3:5**

The Lord within her is righteous;  
he does no injustice;  
every morning he shows forth his justice;  
each dawn he does not fail;  
but the unjust knows no shame.

**Zephaniah 3:8**

"Therefore wait for me," declares the Lord,  
"for the day when I rise up to seize the prey.  
For my decision is to gather nations,  
to assemble kingdoms,  
to pour out upon them my indignation,  
all my burning anger;  
for in the fire of my jealousy  
all the earth shall be consumed.

**Zephaniah 3:9**

9 “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech,  
that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord  
and serve him with one accord.

**2. GOD’S PURPOSE FOR JUSTICE = PURIFICATION****3. GOD’S PURPOSE FOR JUSTICE = RESTORATION****Zephaniah 3:17**

17 The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

**Zephaniah 3:19-20**

19 Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
20 At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the Lord.