

Hope Presbyterian Church  
Sermon-Based Bible Study

January 25, 2026

**“Complaint”**

#1 in the Series *When God Doesn't*

**Scripture Texts (NIV)**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, Matthew 21:12-13



1. Setting the Context for the Study of Habakkuk:

- Habakkuk, one of 12 Old Testament Minor Prophets, lived in the late 7th century BCE in Judah, Israel's southern kingdom.
- It was a time of injustice and idolatry, and he saw the rising threat of the Babylonian empire on the horizon.
- The book of Habakkuk conveys his struggle to believe that God is good amid so much tragedy and evil in his world.

2. **Read Habakkuk 1:1-2.**

Habakkuk directs a lament, a complaint, toward God about the situation in Judah.

- What do we learn about Habakkuk's mindset and what's happening in verse 2?
- How do his words demonstrate the idea that complaints emerge when hope and undesired reality collide?
- When have you felt your legitimate complaint was not being acknowledged?

3. **Read Habakkuk 1:3.**

Effective complaints are usually concise and documented with facts.

- What do we learn about the situation in Judah based on Habakkuk's complaint?
- When you've lodged a complaint about something, what was your process in deciding how, when, and to whom the complaint should be shared.

4. **Read Habakkuk 1:4.**

- How does Habakkuk further bolster the legitimacy of his complaint about the situation in Judah?
- Has a request you've made to God ever become a complaint because you felt He was not responding? What happened?

5. **Read Matthew 21:12-13.**

Consider how Jesus, centuries later, expressed a similar moral outrage to what happening in the temple.

- How does this passage and Habakkuk's complaint help us understand that God is not offended by our complaints and that bringing them to Him can strengthen, not weaken, our "conversations" with Him?

6. How can we pray for you?