

But blessed are your eyes,  
for they see, and your ears,  
for they hear.

**Matthew 13:16**

## Store In My Heart Obadiah 1:1-2

The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!" Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.

This small book is a reminder that God rules over all the kingdoms of men. When Judah was taken captive by Babylon, the people of Edom helped in the capture of the fleeing Israelites. God promised that they would suffer for harming His people. Edom was a nation of descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob. They rejoiced and welcomed to plundering of their relatives. God held them responsible for these actions.

God will hold all peoples accountable for their actions. We need to give attention to the declaration of God against Edom and learn the lesson well.



# Trust And Hope

**Dan Henderson**

Most of us have suffered loss and difficulty in our journey through life. Several have recently suffered the loss of those we hold dear. Such loss never really goes away even though we function as 'normal' folks most of the time. This time of year brings feelings of sorrow to my mind that linger through the end of most years for over a decade now and I really don't expect them to ever stay away. Such thoughts are common to all who have lost loved ones. I believe two areas of spiritual interest can help us with these difficulties, **Trust** and **Hope**.

If we trust only in the mechanisms of this physical world we will almost always be disappointed. Our friends, family, and brethren certainly mean well, but sometimes fall short of helping with our difficulties. This does not mean that we should stop trying to help those who are suffering. It does mean that we need to understand that our help will not bring immediate change to their lives. Platitudes and kind phrases may sound helpful but often they seem empty, especially when they are given by those who quickly return to their own life and expect those in sorrow to do the same. As others have said, sometimes just being there is the best help we can offer.

On the other hand, putting our trust in God will bring healing and relief to those who suffer. God knows more about what we need than any other can know. He literally sees all and is always a *"very present help in trouble."* The Psalmist filled many a page with thankfulness to God for His watch and care, and pleas to Him for help in times of struggle and suffering. Time and again we read in Scripture of God providing support and comfort to those who were in need. We need to learn to put our trust in God, to know deep within our very being that He will see us through. He will always be ready to lift us up from the depth of sorrow and pain.

This trust is more than a mere expression of belief that He exists. It is putting our whole life in His hands by committing ourselves to a life of submission and sacrifice for Him. It is letting go of the world and all its plans and schemes and committing to follow only the commands and teachings left for us by God's inspired spokesmen. If we want God to be

with us, we must first be with Him.

Along with this trust, we must have hope. Again, the hope of the world around us is based upon that which will ultimately fail. Often heard are the stories of lost fortunes and broken dreams. Recent storms have demonstrated the frailty of our infrastructure and dwellings. Many plan for decades for a time of retirement and relaxation in their older years only to have those plans crushed by market changes or natural disaster. Hope based upon the things of this world will leave us disappointed at some point.

Yet hope that is based upon God and His Word will never fail. It is a hope that goes beyond the deteriorating world around us to reach into the eternal heaven. Hope in God cannot fail for God cannot fail. He is eternal. His power and glory are beyond even all that we might imagine.

This hope will move us beyond the dangers and suffering of this world. It will set our minds, not on a nice place to spend our final years in peace, but on the eternity that awaits once this world is gone. It anchors our very being in a place that can never be shaken, much less destroyed.

Again, this must be a hope that is evidenced in our life. It will guide our decisions and relationships. This hope in God and eternity will not seek after this world's goods, but after good from God's Word. It is this kind of hope that Paul expected from those he instructed in **1Timothy 6** to be *"rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future."*

Such trust and hope put our life in the hands of The Creator. When He is the anchor of our existence, we can weather any storm life may send our way. Pain, persecution, loss, sickness, death, etc. hold no sway over us for we know that they are only temporary, and we are all about eternity with God. They will still hurt our physical being, but our spirit will soar above those hurts knowing that they can do no permanent damage. Where is your Trust? Where is your Hope?

(I hope these thoughts are helpful. Especially to those who have lost loved ones during the past few years. Those with family members in difficult health situations can also benefit from these ideas. When we let our focus shift to the passing things of this world, we can sometimes waver in our trust in Christ and hope of Heaven. This will bring instability into our spiritual life and make it easier to fall for satan's temptation. It was these very things he used to tempt our Savior. Trust in the Lord, Hope in Heaven!)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak  
with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Jim Soliday's** doctor adjusted dosage on BP meds.

**Stanley Hurst** has knee replacement surgery August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Sue Soliday** continues physical therapy for her lymphedema.

**Vickie McNees** has a referral appointment with an arthritis Dr.

**John LaValla** has follow-up tests to his doctor appointment.

**Shannon Soliday** is working this weekend.

**Ruben & Brenda Keisler** are cruising for a couple of weeks.

**Dan & JoBeth Henderson** will be in Henderson, TX Mon-Tue.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 21** Wednesday – **1John 4:7**