

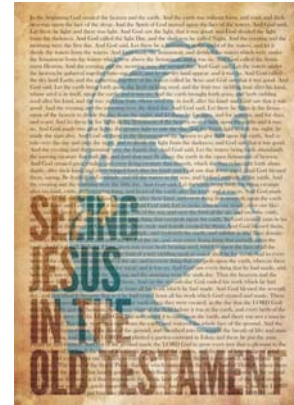


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin April 2017

Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin.

CBI exists to provide Christ-centered Bible instruction through distinguished experts who teach "Christ in Every Word" of the Old and New Testaments. Under the direction of Dr. Brian German and in cooperation with the Department of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, CBI offers podcasts, face-to-face seminars, and other special events to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God.



"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word."

-Martin Luther (Luther's Works, 25:238).

[Subscribe To "Christ In Every Word" Podcast](#)

Click the button above to sign up for a weekly email update on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts.

Upcoming Events



Spring In-Depth Bible Studies
April 3 from 3:00-5:30pm
April 10 from 6:30-8:30pm Friends
of Concordia Room
Concordia University Wisconsin
\$20 per class, per person
FREE for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff Bring
a Bible and a Friend!

These In-Depth Bible Studies are wonderful opportunities to learn from university professors and special guest lecturers about important topics related to the Bible and the Christian faith. We pray that you would consider joining us for this Christ-centered instruction.

Special One-Day Seminar
with Dr. Nathan Jastram & Dr. Jeffrey Kloha
"The Origins of the Bible"

Saturday, April 22, 2017
8:45am-3:15pm
Pharmacy Building PH008
Concordia University Wisconsin
\$40 per person
\$10 for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff



Join us as we hear from Dr. Nathan Jastram on "The Growth of the Old Testament" and "A Case Study of Textual Transmission," and Dr. Jeffrey Kloha on "Gospels, Eyewitnesses, and Jesus" and "Manuscripts and the Reliability of the Text."

For more information on upcoming events, please visit our website

www.concordiabible.org

Society of Creation 2017 Conference

The Age of the Earth 2017 Creation Conference July 7-8, 2017

The fifth annual Creation Conference will be held July 7-8, 2017. Come enjoy a series of presentations on the Doctrine of Creation and the Age of the Earth, including strong evidence that the earth and universe are thousands of years old, but not billions as the evolution model supposes.

The keynote speakers, Dr. Don DeYoung and Dr. Russ Humphreys, are both well-known scientists who have thoroughly investigated the creation model and found it to be a true explanation for origins. Society of Creation co-founders Dr. Joel Heck and Dr. Gary Locklair will also present.

For more information, please [click here](#).

For registration, contact: Prof.
Josh Locklair
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262-243-2141

Website


Visit our website at concordiabible.org to learn more about CBI.

Podcasts

CBI offers thirty to forty-minute long podcasts on biblical passages and religious issues that you can listen to any time through the [CBI website](#).

Read the Bible in a Year

Looking to add to your devotions this year? Or simply want to accomplish the goal of reading the Bible in a year? Follow along with the calendar below! A new calendar will be sent in each newsletter.

April 2017							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 Isaiah 25:1-9 Romans 1-3	
2 Psalm 114 Romans 4-6	3 Psalm 115 Romans 7-9	4 Psalm 116 Romans 10-13	5 Psalm 117 Romans 14-16	6 Psalm 118 1 Cor 1-3	7 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Cor 4-6	8 Psalm 119:9-16 1 Cor 7-9	
9 Psalm 119:17-24 1 Cor 10-11	10 Psalm 119:25-32 1 Cor 12-14	11 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Cor 15-16	12 Psalm 119:41-48 2 Cor 1-4	13 Psalm 119:49-56 2 Cor 5-7	14 Psalm 119:57-64 2 Cor 8-10	15 Psalm 119:65-72 2 Cor 11-13	
16 Psalm 119:73-80 Galatians 1-3 Easter	17 Psalm 119:81-88 Galatians 4-6	18 Psalm 119:89-96 Ephesians 1-3	19 Psalm 119:97-104 Ephesians 4-6	20 Psalm 119:105-112 Philippians 1-2	21 Psalm 119:113-120 Philippians 3-4	22 Psalm 119:121-128 Colossians 1-2	
23 Psalm 119: 129-136 Col 3-4 Isaiah 25:1-9 2 Tim 3-4 30	24 Psalm 119:137-144 1 Thess 1-3	25 Psalm 119:145-152 1 Thess 4-5	26 Psalm 119:153-160 2 Thess 1-3	27 Psalm 119:161-168 1 Timothy 1-3	28 Psalm 119:169-176 1 Timothy 4-6	29 Psalm 120 2 Timothy 1-2	

Ask Dr. Saleska

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the ["Ask Dr. Saleska"](#) page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

Question: In our Bible class we have been studying the lives of Israel's first three kings: Saul, David, Solomon. We have pretty much concluded the study of Saul's life, but are having trouble explaining the event just prior to Saul's death when he visited the "witch of Endor." In First Samuel 28:9 it says that Saul consulted a woman that had a "familiar spirit" to find out what was going to happen in his battle with the Philistines the next day. He requested that she bring up Samuel, and it seems as if Samuel really did appear and correctly predicted the outcome of the battle. Could you explain exactly what happened? Did Samuel really appear? How could a woman with a "familiar spirit" bring back a person from the dead?

Answer: At the time of the event in question Saul's spiritual life, his relationship with the Lord, had deteriorated to the point where Scripture says that the Lord would no longer answer his prayers: 1 Samuel 28:6: "And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets." Why would the Lord not answer? My guess is that Saul, either deliberately or unconsciously, wanted God to do it his way, Saul's way. After all, despite his frightful circumstances, he was still king. God, of course, is the one who gets to choose how and where we meet him. God had said about that "meeting place," the Tabernacle, the place of the Mercy Seat where the sacrificial blood was sprinkled, "There I will meet with thee." This would require of Saul confession of sin, repentance, the willingness to live a new life, etc. Saul refused and stubbornly insisted on his own way, which is why he sent out his

servants to find a medium (necromancer), one who supposedly could bring back the dead, intending to bring back the prophet Samuel from the dead and ask him about the approaching battle with the Philistines. He was determined to have it his own way.

These are essentially the circumstances which prevailed at the time of the event of the “witch of Endor.” Saul was looking for help from a source outside himself and not from God. He prayed to the Lord but he had fallen so far that the Lord would no longer answer him so he decided to seek help from a woman with a “familiar spirit.” In this day and age she would probably be referred to as a “medium.” It is now evident that he is dealing with the one who as St. Paul says is the “...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). It is clear that things will not go well for Saul. The army of the Philistines is gathering for warfare and “when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled” (1 Sam.28:5).

He wanted to talk with the prophet Samuel, but Samuel was dead. The only way to talk with him would be to find a necromancer (a person who contacts the dead) and call Samuel back from the dead. Saul located the “Witch at Endor” and asked her to conjure up Samuel. She seems to have done just that. Here is the description: “When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out loudly (to king Saul) and asked, ‘Why did you deceive me? You’re Saul.’ “Don’t be afraid,” the king said to her. “What do you see?” I see a god rising from the ground,” the woman answered. “In what form?” he asked her. She answered, “An old man is coming up, and he’s wearing a robe.” Then Saul knew it was Samuel. Saul knelt down with his face touching the ground. Samuel asked Saul, “Why did you disturb me by conjuring me up?” Saul answered, “I’m in serious trouble. The Philistines are at war with me, and God is turned against me and doesn’t answer anymore - either by the prophets, or in dreams. So I’ve called on you to tell me what to do.” Samuel said, “Why are you asking me when the Lord has turned against you and become your enemy? The Lord has done to you exactly what he spoke through me: The Lord has torn the kingship out of your hands and given it to your fellow Israelite David. The Lord is doing this to you today because you didn’t listen to him...the Lord will hand Israel’s army over to the Philistines.” Sounds very much like Samuel, doesn’t it?

Two questions need answering: 1) Did the witch actually conjure up Samuel? 2) What part did Satan play in what happened here?

1) My personal explanation is that God permitted Satan to create an illusion. I believe it is safe to conclude that Samuel was with the Lord and consequently the answer to question one is “no,” the witch would not have been able to “conjure him up.” He is with the Lord, therefore he is already “up.” That Satan might be capable of creating an illusion can be demonstrated by 2 Corinthians 11:14: “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

2) If it is true that Satan created an illusion, two New Testament passages might help to shed some light on the question about why the Lord might have permitted this event to occur: 1) I Timothy 1:20: “Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan; that they may learn not to blaspheme.” 2) I Corinthians 5:5: “to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” The Lord still loved Saul despite his rebellious behavior, and even though the Devil is God’s avowed enemy God can and still does use him (Job is a case in point, as well as David in I Chronicles 21:1ff) to accomplish his purposes. In this particular case it might well have been God’s intent to frighten Saul into the realization that his situation was so desperate that only God could rescue him. In this last moment only God could bring what he needed - salvation, both physical and spiritual. That’s my explanation; there are undoubtedly others.

Contribute

If you find value in this e-Bulletin and other CBI offerings and would like to support our mutual desire to spread God’s Word to wide audiences, please consider writing a check to Concordia University Wisconsin with CBI e-Bulletin and A913 on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

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