

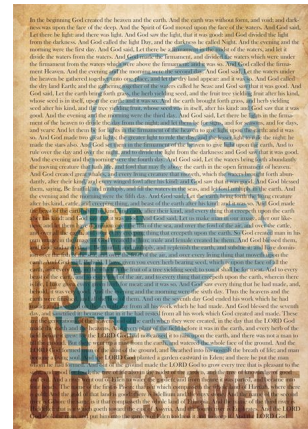


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin December 2019

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).

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The Triumphal Entry

A student of mine recently asked me why Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is traditionally the reading assigned for the first Sunday in advent. Good question! While this event is mentioned in all four gospels, let's focus on Matthew's account to think through why that may be...

Matthew tells us that the action begins "when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives." We could start by noting that the Mount of Olives is the same place where Jesus taught quite a bit about the end times (see Mt. 24). According to Luke, Jesus went there often with his disciples (Lk. 22:39), and this is also where the garden of Gethsemane is located. So, before any donkey riding happens, the very spot for what is about to ensue evokes the end times and a posture of watching and prayer.

Jesus tells two of his disciples to "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once" (Mt. 21:2-3).

Fascinating! While the donkey is often associated with humility (and rightfully so), what is not typically highlighted is that the donkey was also known for bearing *burdens*. This characteristic (along with humility) is mentioned clearly in the quote from Zechariah which soon follows: "humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a *beast of burden*" (Mt. 21:5). Intriguingly, Matthew (along with the other evangelists) doesn't tell us which two disciples were sent. Why is that?

It seems to me that this could be to illustrate something pertaining to discipleship in general. As if Jesus were to say: “Go to the place where I am sending you, and immediately—wherever that place happens to be—you will find the burdens of that place. Release those burdens, and bring those burdens to me.”

(If you really want to dive deep, there was also a prophecy in Gen. 49:10 about the Messiah “binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine.” Well, here we have a donkey/colt being bound to the one who is himself the vine [Jn. 15:5]!)

Matthew then writes that the disciples “put on them [the donkey and the colt] their cloaks” and that “most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road...” (Mt. 21:7-8). Why would they do such a thing? We’re not told explicitly, but at the very least, it was certainly an act of submission (recall, for instance, how when Stephen was being martyred that “the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul” [Acts 7:58]). If I may be allowed to paraphrase once more, I might put their actions this way: “Here’s my old clothing—take it. What I really need is the kind of clothing you have in store for me!”

Finally, Matthew also tells us that “when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up...” (Mt. 21:10). The word for “stirred up” is literally “shaken,” or the same word for *earthquake*. In fact, Matthew uses this same word for what happens when Jesus dies: “the earth shook, and the rocks were split” (Mt. 27:51).

Why, then, is Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem traditionally the reading assigned for the first Sunday of advent? When Jesus comes to his people—whether his first coming or his second—it is an end times event. The goal of all human history is in him, the babe of Bethlehem who is also the ruler of the nations. As we prepare once again to celebrate his first coming in the flesh, there’s no better way to prepare for his second coming than by confessing his saving work of taking our sinful burdens upon the cross. “Release those, and give them to me!”

Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

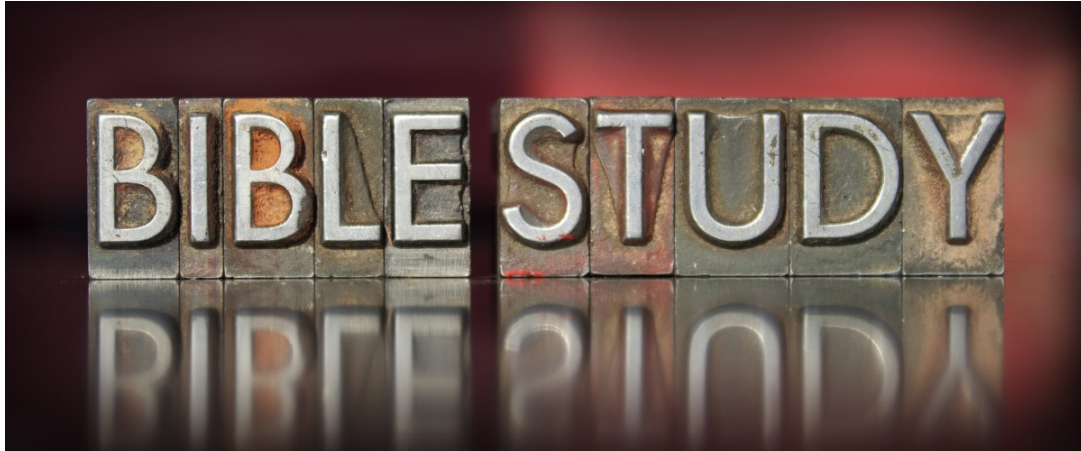
Upcoming Events

Spring In-Depth Bible Studies:

February 24, March 2, March 9, March 23, March 30, April 6



Mark these dates on your calendar for the Spring series of In-Depth Bible Studies. Come to any or all of the In-Depth Bible Studies, an amazing opportunity to hear *Christ in Every Word* from experts in their field!

Watch future e-Bulletins and concordiabible.org for more information



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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1 Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2	2 Psalm 1 Revelation 3-5			5 Psalm 4 Rev. 12-14	6 Psalm 5 Rev. 15-17	7 Psalm 6 Rev. 18-20
8 Psalm 7 Rev. 21-22	9 Psalm 8 Isaiah 1-3	10 Psalm 9 Isaiah 4-6	11 Psalm 10 Isaiah 7-9	12 Psalm 11 Isaiah 10-12	13 Psalm 12 Isaiah 13-15	14 Psalm 13 Isaiah 16-8
15 Psalm 14 Isaiah 19-21	16 Psalm 15 Isaiah 22-24	17 Psalm 16 Isaiah 25-27	18 Psalm 17 Isaiah 28-30	19 Psalm 18 Isaiah 31-33	20 Psalm 19 Isaiah 34-36	21 Psalm 20 Isaiah 37-39
22 Psalm 21 Isaiah 40-42	23 Psalm 22 Isaiah 43-45	24 Psalm 23 Isaiah 46-48	25 Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51	26 Psalm 25 Isaiah 52-54	27 Psalm 26 Isaiah 55-57	28 Psalm 27 Isaiah 58-60
29 Psalm 28 Isaiah 61-63	30 Psalm 29 Isaiah 64-66	31 Luke 1:46-55 Mark 1				

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.

Now Streaming on iTunes & Google Play!

You can listen to our weekly podcasts by subscribing on iTunes or Google Play.

When new episodes become available they will be automatically be downloaded to your device. Just click [here](#) to subscribe through our website or click the image below!



Saleska Scholarship Endowment

In honor of Rev. Dr. John Saleska's legacy of teaching "Christ in Every Word" among us, CBI has established "The Concordia Bible Institute Saleska Scholarship Endowment," whose purpose is to provide financial assistance to pre-seminary students at Concordia University Wisconsin. In an age of biblical illiteracy, it is hoped that this endowment will help future pastors carry forward Dr. Saleska's lifelong conviction of teaching "Christ in Every Word" as they read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures.



Please join me in spreading the word about the origination of this endowment and by praying for its growth. For ways to contribute, please visit <http://www.concordiabible.org/contribute/> and designate "Saleska Scholarship Endowment" on your method of giving.

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 making a contribution to CBI. There are many ways to contribute, from writing a check to **CUW Foundation** with **CBI e-Bulletin** on the memo line, or following the link to make a one-time or reoccurring gift online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

Mail checks to:

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Attn: Office of Advancement
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Mequon, WI 53097



"Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament" photo courtesy of <http://www.prayercollege.org/tag/messiah>

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