

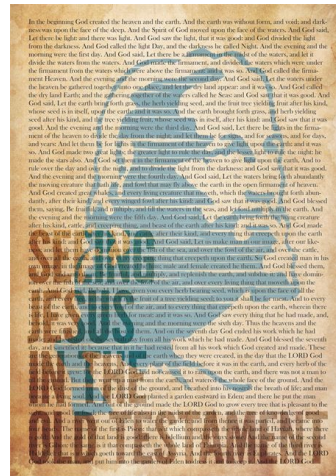


CONCORDIA  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*Christ in Every Word*

# CBI e-Bulletin December 2018

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.

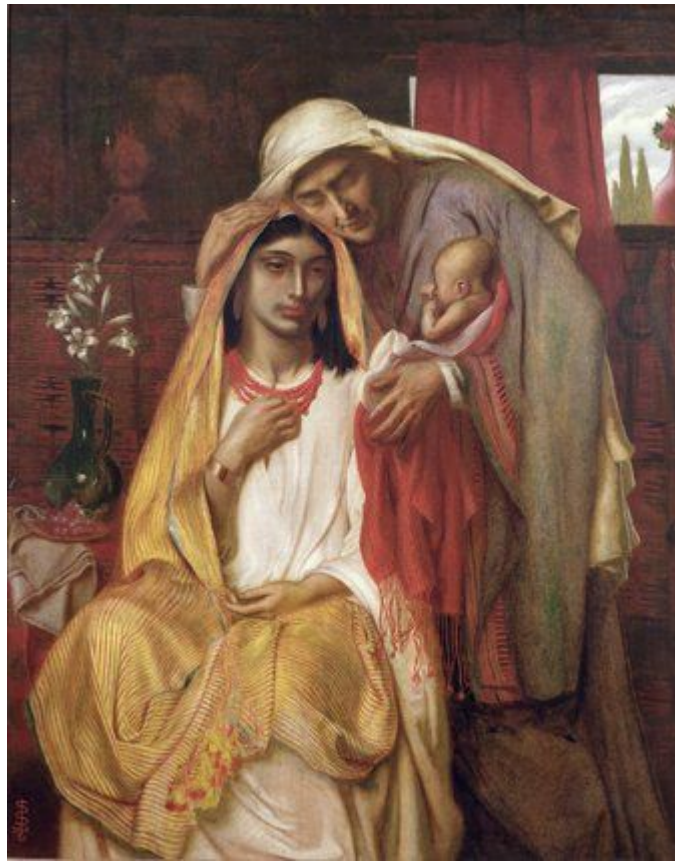


"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word."

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

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## Christmas in Ruth?

The book of Ruth is a wonderful little account of how God provided for a particular family and, by extension, his people Israel, in a very difficult time. It's loaded with literary artistry, and it offers a unique window into the family tree of King David. (For an audio recording of an in-depth presentation I did a few years ago on the book, [click here](#)).

It may not seem like it at first glance, but there's a character in the book of Ruth who may have more to do with Christmas than we previously imagined. I have in mind Obed, David's grandfather, whose birth and significance are described at the end of the book, in Ruth 4:13-22.

Although he isn't mentioned elsewhere in the Bible outside of a few genealogies (e.g., in 1 Chronicles 2, Matthew 1, and Luke 3), Obed is an extremely remarkable individual! In just a few short verses, we learn the following:



- After Boaz marries Ruth, we're given the unusual phrase that "the Lord gave conception to her" (4:13). The conception of Obed, then, was nothing short of *miraculous*. The Lord made this conception happen; he "gave" it.
- Before Obed is even given a name, he's professed by the women of the neighborhood to be "a redeemer" (4:14). In fact, *this is the only time in the Old Testament where this term "redeemer" is used for a baby*.
- While Boaz's reputation would extend only throughout Bethlehem (4:11), Obed's name would be "renowned in Israel" (4:14). On a related note, the ones praising Boaz offered him only wishes ("may you..." [4:11-12]), while the ones praising Obed spoke *promises* ("he shall be..." [4:15]).
- The women of the neighborhood then declare that Obed will be (literally) "a restorer of soul" and "a provider [of daily bread, etc.]" (4:15).
- Finally, it was also the women of the neighborhood who "gave him [Obed] a name" (4:16), which is *the only time in the Old Testament where a name is given by anyone other than a parent*.

It seems to me, then, that in the conception and birth of Obed are some fascinating parallels to the conception and birth of another baby Redeemer, whose birth we'll soon again celebrate. Another way of putting it would be to say that in David's grandfather is a little preview of the person and work of "great David's greater son"!

Dr. Brian German  
 Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

## 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
						<b>1</b> Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2
<b>2</b> Psalm 1 Revelation 3-5	<b>3</b> Psalm 2 Revelation 6-8	<b>4</b> Psalm 3 Revelation 9-11	<b>5</b> Psalm 4 Rev. 12-14	<b>6</b> Psalm 5 Rev. 15-17	<b>7</b> Psalm 6 Rev. 18-20	<b>8</b> Psalm 7 Rev. 21-22
<b>9</b> Psalm 8 Isaiah 1-3	<b>10</b> Psalm 9 Isaiah 4-6	<b>11</b> Psalm 10 Isaiah 7-9	<b>12</b> Psalm 11 Isaiah 10-12	<b>13</b> Psalm 12 Isaiah 13-15	<b>14</b> Psalm 13 Isaiah 16-8	<b>15</b> Psalm 14 Isaiah 19-21
<b>16</b> Psalm 15 Isaiah 22-24	<b>17</b> Psalm 16 Isaiah 25-27	<b>18</b> Psalm 17 Isaiah 28-30	<b>19</b> Psalm 18 Isaiah 31-33	<b>20</b> Psalm 19 Isaiah 34-36	<b>21</b> Psalm 20 Isaiah 37-39	<b>22</b> Psalm 21 Isaiah 40-42
<b>23</b> Psalm 22 Isaiah 43-45	<b>24</b> Psalm 23 Isaiah 46-48 Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51 Merry Christmas!	<b>26</b> Psalm 25 Isaiah 52-54	<b>27</b> Psalm 26 Isaiah 55-57	<b>28</b> Psalm 27 Isaiah 58-60	<b>29</b> Psalm 28 Isaiah 61-63
<b>30</b> Psalm 29 Isaiah 64-66	<b>31</b> Luke 1:46-55 Mark 1					

## Website

Visit our website at [concordiabible.org](http://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](#).

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



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## 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 **CUW Foundation** with **CBI e-Bulletin** on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

### **Mail checks to:**

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

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