

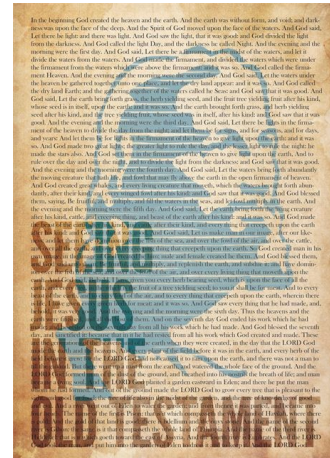


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin December 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).

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Have you ever noticed how different the birth narratives of Jesus are in the Bible? One is given in Matthew, the other is in Luke, and they each tell us about the birth of our Savior in unique ways. Even so, take a closer look with me and you'll see how the whole is greater than the sum of the parts...

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is surely the more popular of the two (I still remember having to memorize 20 verses of it as a kid—in the King James Version, of course). In Luke, the first ones to hear about the birth of our Savior are the shepherds. How fitting! Jesus comes for the lowly such as these, and he does so precisely by being our Good Shepherd. Luke also tells us about an angel of the Lord making the birth announcement, which is also quite fitting, because just as the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament brought God's presence, so also would this Babe in Bethlehem bring God's presence in the flesh. Finally, Luke informs us that a multitude of heavenly host also appeared when Jesus was born. This is yet another beautiful witness to what is taking place, because where Jesus is, there is heaven. In sum, Luke's account of the birth of Jesus gives us shepherds, angels, a heavenly host, and you might as well throw in colorful balloons and a chocolate cake, too.

In Matthew's account, on the other hand, there is darkness, dreams, and death. He wants us to know that when Jesus was born, King Herod was troubled "and *all Jerusalem with him*" (Mt. 2:3). Some welcome party! Matthew also writes about an angel of the Lord, as did Luke, but instead of an angel bringing a glorious announcement of God's presence, this angel warns Joseph multiple times that death is right around the corner. Instead of gazing toward the heavens as we did in Luke, Matthew tells us that the Christ-child needs to go down to Egypt because King Herod, much like a new Pharaoh, is hell-bent on destroying all the male children in Bethlehem. While Luke is passing out plates and napkins, Matthew is showing us graves at a cemetery.

And so it is that, while the birth of Jesus is indeed a glorious event (Luke), it also comes at a price (Matthew). We are indeed given an inheritance in the highest (Luke), but only after Jesus goes down into the lowest (Matthew). We will one day be free from tears and crying (Luke), but only after Jesus first leads us in a new exodus from sin, death, and the devil (Matthew).

And therein lies the beauty of how Christmas is portrayed in the Bible. The accounts of the birth of Jesus may be strikingly different between Matthew and Luke, but when they are taken together, we see with even more clarity the person and work of our Savior and why our Christmas celebrations can be, well, so merry in the first place.

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Brian German

Advent Scripture Readings

In need of daily Scripture readings for the season of Advent? Download your copy [here](#).

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
3 Psalm 2 Revelation 6-8	4 Psalm 3 Revelation 9-11	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 Christmas Eve	25 Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51 Merry Christmas!	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.

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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!



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:

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

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