

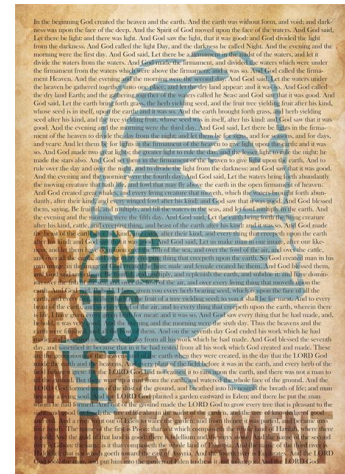


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin February 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 Song of Songs!

Have you ever studied the Song of Songs? Perhaps you're aware that it's one of Solomon's three books in the Bible (along with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes) and that it appears at first glance to be a series of love poems between Solomon and a woman referred to as "the Shulammite" (Song 6:13). Recently I was asked how the book was traditionally understood, so I'd like to briefly address that here.

First, the traditional understanding of the Song of Songs was that it depicts the "marriage" between God and his people, and more specifically in Christian interpretation, the marriage between Christ and his church (see Eph. 5:22-33). The aim of the Song of Songs, then, was to bear witness to the reality of divine love, and ultimately our union with God.

One fascinating way that the nature of this relationship is expressed throughout the book is in the way that Solomon and the Shulammite echo each other. Solomon says that the Shulammite's "eyes are doves" (1:15; 4:1), for example, and she says the same thing of his eyes later on (5:12). Solomon says that the Shulammite is his dove (5:2), and she likewise says that he is her dove, too (2:14). Both also confess with verbatim words the phrase "my dove, my perfect one" (5:2; 6:9).

A similar interaction occurs with the word "beautiful." Solomon says this of the Shulammite multiple times (1:8, 15; 4:1, 7, 10; 6:4, 10; 7:1, 6), and she says the same of him, too (1:16). (Others will confess it of her as well in 5:9 and 6:1.) Again, Solomon says that the Shulammite is "lovely" (1:10; 4:3; 6:4), and she says that of him (2:14). Solomon says that her love is better than wine (4:10), and she says that his love is better than wine (1:2). Solomon says that her shoots are like spices (4:13-14), and she, in turn, says that his cheeks are like spices (5:13). Solomon says that her neck is like ivory (7:4), and she says that his body is like ivory (5:14). Similar examples could be added.

What we can see in all of this is that the kind of love on display throughout the Song of Songs includes a profound interest in each other's words. In fact, *the Song of Songs spends far more time talking about what Solomon and the Shulamite have to say to and about each other than on how the two engage(d) in acts of physical intimacy with each other.* Much like vows in a marriage, words are at the heart and essence of what they are to each other.

Does this remind you in any way of the church? God gives us his words, his promises, and we say them back to God in both speech and song. The Greek word for "confess," in fact, literally means "to say the same," and this captures the phenomenon that takes place in the Song of Songs, too. So it is that in our marriage with Christ, the church exclaims, "My tongue will sing of your word" (Ps. 119:172).

Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

Upcoming Events

Save the date for these upcoming events.
More information to come in future e-Bulletins.

Spring In-Depth Bible Studies:

February 25, March 4, March 11, March 25,
April 1, and April 8

All classes will be 6:30pm to 8:30pm and
held in the Friends of Concordia room.

Spring CBI Seminar:

Featuring Rev. Dr. William Weinrich

Saturday, May 4


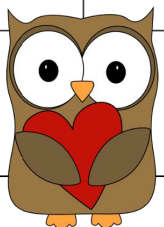
8:45am to 2:30pm in the Pharmacy Building

Watch our website for details. www.concordiabible.org



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 2:29-32 Exodus 1-3	2 Psalm 59 Exodus 4-6
3 Psalm 60 Exodus 7-9	4 Psalm 61 Exodus 10-12	5 Psalm 62 Exodus 13-15	6 Psalm 63 Exodus 16-18	7 Psalm 64 Exodus 19-21	8 Psalm 65 Exodus 22-24	9 Psalm 66 Exodus 25-27
10 Psalm 67 Exodus 28-30	11 Psalm 68 Exodus 31-33	12 Psalm 69 Exodus 34-36	13 Psalm 70 Exodus 37-38	14 Psalm 71 Exodus 39-40	15 Psalm 72 Leviticus 1-3	16 Psalm 73 Leviticus 4-6
17 Psalm 74 Leviticus 7-9	18 Psalm 75 Leviticus 10-12	19 Psalm 76 Leviticus 13-15	20 Psalm 77 Leviticus 16-18	21 Psalm 78 Leviticus 19-21	22 Psalm 79 Lev. 22-24	23 Psalm 80 Lev. 25-27
24 Psalm 81 Numbers 1-3	25 Psalm 82 Numbers 4-6	26 Psalm 83 Numbers 7-9	27 Psalm 84 Numbers 10-12	28 Luke 2:29-32 Numbers 13-15		

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](http://concordiabible.org).

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](http://concordiabible.org) 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:

Concordia University Wisconsin
Attn: Office of Advancement
12800 North Lake Shore Drive
Mequon, WI 53097



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

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