

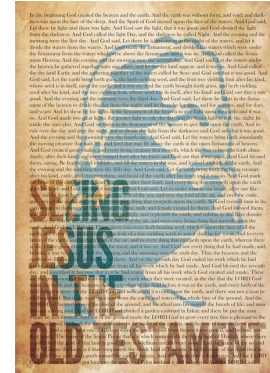


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin February 2021

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 Divine Service in Revelation: Part 2

A couple months ago I wrote a brief piece on “The Divine Service in Revelation” in which I focused on how John’s first vision of the Son of Man in Revelation 1 seems to be grounded in various ways in the church’s liturgy. One reader has since asked: “Where else does the ‘Divine Service’ appear in the book of Revelation?” In short, I think it’s all over the book!

Let’s consider one more example, this time from chapter 10. To summarize briefly what happens up to this point: John experiences a magnificent, heavenly throne room in chapters 4 and 5 and learns that God is holding a scroll in his right hand that can be opened only by the Lamb (Rev. 5:7). One by one the Lamb opens six of the scroll’s seven seals in chapter 6, and after a brief “interlude” in chapter 7, where John sees a vision of the one church that lives on both heaven and earth, the seventh seal is opened and it stirs up seven trumpets. Much like the seven seals, the first six trumpets, in chapters 8 and 9, bring us to yet another “interlude” before the seventh one blows (Rev. 11:15–19), and this time the focus is on what happens to John.

He writes: “Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. He had a little scroll open in his hand” (Rev. 10:1–2). Notice how similar this “angel” is to the Son of Man in chapter 1: “wrapped (lit., “clothed”) in a cloud” (see 1:13, 7), a face like the sun (see 1:16), legs like pillars of fire (see 1:14–15), and he’s holding something in his right hand (see 1:16, 17, 20).

John continues: “And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised

his right hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever...that there would be no more delay, but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets” (Rev. 10:5–7). We learn in the next chapter that “the mystery of God” has to do with how Christians are to bear witness to the Gospel before the last day. They are, for example, to speak the word (see Rev. 11:3, 6, 10), and even if that witness causes death, the Lord stands ready to give them a breath (lit., “spirit”) of new life (Rev. 11:11).

What this means for chapter 10 is that *something is about to happen to John that is at the heart and center of the Christian witness*. And it looks like this: “Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, ‘Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.’ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, ‘*Take and eat it...*’” (Rev. 10:8–9). John consumes the scroll given to him, and immediately afterwards he’s told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings” (Rev. 10:11).

Fascinating! Everything associated with the Son of Man—sun, cloud, rainbow, divine clothing—all things far *above* our own reason and strength!—comes right down to John. The heavenly scroll that no one but the Lamb could open is now not only opened but also extended right into John’s mouth for consumption (again, “*Take and eat*”). Then John “must again” speak God’s word, and even if this leads to death, he is promised new life (see esp. Rev. 11:11).

Does this sound familiar? The One who is heavenly, high, and holy deigns to dwell with us most lowly (LSB 636). We are given the Word—or should I say *Scroll*—made flesh in the Lord’s Supper, told to “Take and eat,” and then are sent back again and again into the world. This is the essence of the Christian witness, and even in the face of death, whether to the self or to the world, God promises a spirit of new life each and every Lord’s day. Remember how John phrased his own introduction to the book: “I was *in the Spirit on the Lord’s day*” (1:10). And we are too. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Brian German

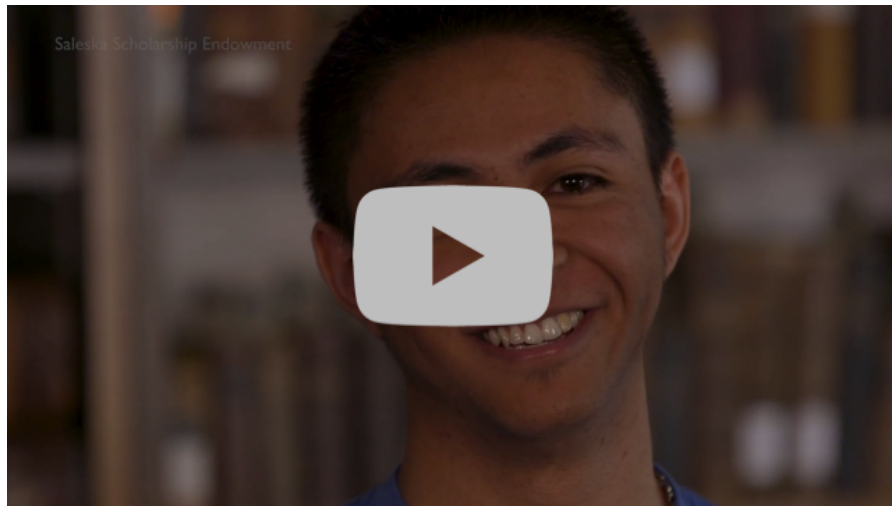
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

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Please help Concordia University Wisconsin provide more financial aid to Pre-Seminary students by praying for and giving to the Saleska Scholarship Endowment. Lord willing and with your help, we hope to add one million dollars or more to the endowment by June 30, 2022. We urge congregations, groups, and individuals to give.

- Visit concordiabible.org/Saleska for more information and to give (scroll down to the bottom of the page to see all of our resources).
- Help us get the word out to those who want to help Pre-Seminary students and to those who knew Dr. Saleska.
- Click here to watch our video: <https://youtu.be/vqLfzI9WIkW>




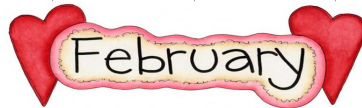

Thank you! Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ron Mudge

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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

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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 and resources about this endowment, please visit concordiabible.org/saleska and designate "Saleska Scholarship Endowment" on your method of giving.

NEW Donor Match Opportunity Available!

There is a NEW opportunity to magnify your generosity! Now, and for a limited time, gifts of \$2,500 and greater will be matched dollar for dollar, if donated to establish or add to named or general endowments. This would include the Saleska Scholarship Endowment! Please, prayerfully consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity to help your donation go farther to provide financial assistance to pre-seminary students at Concordia University Wisconsin. Please contact Jeff Klocko, Director of Donor Relations, for details about this exciting opportunity. He can be reached at 262.243.2170 or jeff.klocko@cuw.edu.

Contribute

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

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