



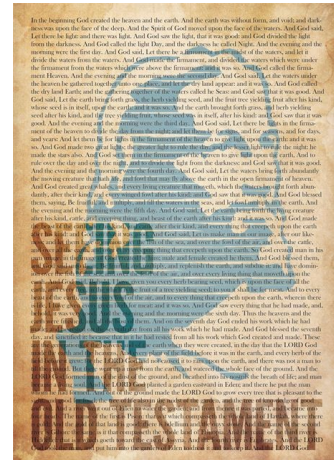
CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin

May 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 Ascension of Jesus

Christians all over the world will soon be observing the ascension of Jesus (May 13th), a profoundly important event for the church of all times and places that was once celebrated on par with Christmas and Easter. Why was that? Let's take a look at just some of the key details of the event as recorded in Acts 1:1-11 to find out...

Luke begins his account of the ascension like this: “In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen” (Acts 1:1-2).

First thing's first: Luke says that “the first book,” the gospel of Luke, is a record of “all that Jesus *began* to do and teach.” This will be huge not only for the ascension but also for the book of Acts as a whole: *Jesus is not finished doing and teaching*. We'll return to this point in a moment.

Luke then writes that “He [Jesus] presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

A few things from this verse stand out. First, notice how Luke refers to Jesus’ resurrection (“presented himself alive”) *and* to his crucifixion (“after his suffering”) in the same breath. Next, instead of describing Jesus’ “many proofs” in more detail, Luke instead focuses on the fact that Jesus’ “many” appearances featured “speaking about the kingdom of God.” So it is that *the risen Christ, who is and remains the crucified one, continues to teach his people*. We’ll return to this point, too, in a moment.

One last tidbit from the verse above that we just can’t miss is the forty-day period over which this takes place. Why forty? Well, it tends to bring to mind several other biblical “forties,” doesn’t it? Events such as the flood, the Israelite journey through the wilderness, and Jesus’ temptation by the devil all make the list. The number forty connotes *a set period of trial and affliction*, yes, but also *a set period; it won’t last forever*. We will be kept safe; we will be victorious; we will reach our promised land.

Finally, notice which details Luke prioritizes as he describes the actual ascension: “And when he [Jesus] had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a *cloud* took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

That’s fascinating! Of all the ways to ascend—A fiery chariot, perhaps?—we have a cloud. Once again, doesn’t this detail, too, evoke some wonderful clouds from elsewhere in the Bible? The pillar of cloud leading God’s people through the wilderness comes to mind, along with the cloud filling the tabernacle/temple with God’s glory, the cloud covering Mt. Sinai, and so on. Clouds often appear when *God is leading his people, present with them in a special way, doing something magnificent for them*.

What does all of this mean for the ascension of Jesus? It may feel like an ending, but the ascension is really a beginning. It may seem like Jesus is done working, but he’s still very much doing and teaching. It may seem like Jesus is leaving, but he’ll now be present with his people in a whole new way, *closer than ever*. Much like the effect of fog, only the visibility changes. The crucified-yet-risen Christ will now be teaching and feeding his people throughout the wilderness of this life, leading us through every trial and affliction to our glorious promised land. That’s a big deal indeed!

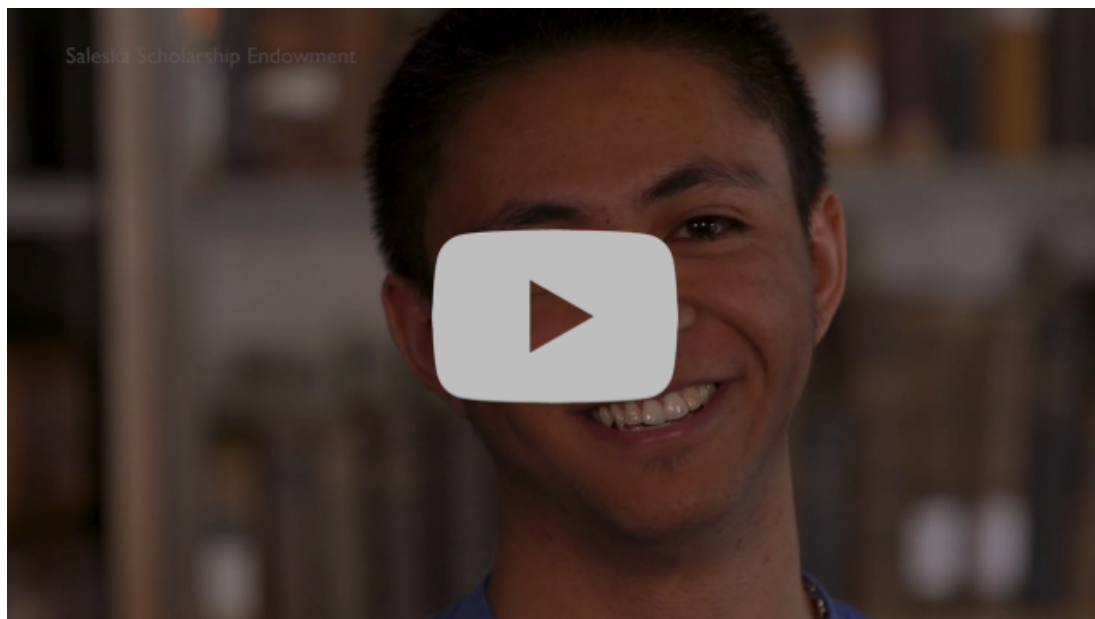
Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

Saleska Scholarship for Pre-Seminary Students

God's Peace to You!

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/vqLfzI9Wlkw>




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 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Titus, Philemon
2 Psalm 121 Hebrews 1-4	3 Psalm 122 Hebrews 5-7	4 Psalm 123 Hebrews 8-10	5 Psalm 124 Hebrews 11-13	6 Psalm 125 James 1-3	7 Psalm 126 James 4-5	8 Psalm 127 1 Peter 1-2
9 Psalm 128 1 Peter 3-5	10 Psalm 129 2 Peter	11 Psalm 130 1 John 1-3	12 Psalm 131 1 John 4-5	13 Psalm 132 2 John, 3 John, Jude	14 Psalm 133 John 1-2	15 Psalm 134 John 3-4
16 Psalm 135 John 5-6	17 Psalm 136 John 7-8	18 Psalm 137 John 9-10	19 Psalm 138 John 11-12	20 Psalm 139 John 13-14	21 Psalm 140 John 15-16	22 Psalm 141 John 17-18
23 Psalm 142 John 19	24 Psalm 143 John 20-21	25 Psalm 144 Acts 1-2	26 Psalm 145 Acts 3-4	27 Psalm 146 Acts 5-6	28 Psalm 147 Acts 7-8	29 Psalm 148 Acts 9-10
30 Psalm 149 Acts 11-12	31 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Acts 13-14					

Website

Visit our website at concordiabible.org to learn more about CBI.

Podcasts

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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!



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!

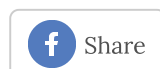
There is a NEW opportunity to magnify your generosity! Now, and for a limited time, gifts of \$2,500 and greater will be matched dollar for dollar, if donated to establish or add to named or general endowments. This would include the Saleska Scholarship Endowment! Please, prayerfully consider taking 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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Mail checks to:

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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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