

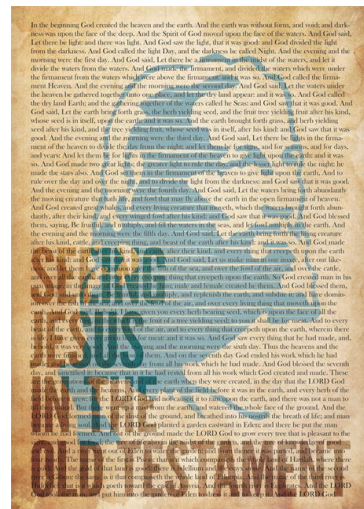


CONCORDIA  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*Christ in Every Word*

# CBI e-Bulletin November 2016

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).

Subscribe To "Christ In Every Word" Podcast

Click the button above to sign up for a weekly email update on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts.

# Happy 499th Anniversary of the Reformation!

As another October 31st has come and gone, we remember and give thanks for our Lord's work through Martin Luther and the many other individuals who contributed to the Reformation of the church in the sixteenth century. CBI's tagline "Christ in Every Word" comes from one of the many writings of Luther (the quote can be found above), and in order to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, we plan to have a special "Luther and the Bible" seminar next fall. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting event!



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## CBI Fall 2016 Update

As we near the end of this fall semester, we wanted to take a minute to share about our fall events.



In September we had the joy of hosting Dr. Paul Maier (Western Michigan University), who spoke on "The Genuine Jesus: Fresh Information from History and Archaeology." We had over seventy-five attendees and it was very well-received. To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).

In October we concluded another series of our weekly "In-Depth Bible Studies."

This semester our studies covered a variety of topics, from Elijah and Elisha in the Old Testament to lessons of Jesus and the Pastoral Ministry from the New Testament. For the first time, we offered an evening study in hopes of seeing more students attend.



Thankfully we welcomed not only some new students but also nearly all of our regular participants as well.



Finally, we also hosted our Sixth Annual Hymn Fest on October 23. We are very thankful to those who attended and for their gracious gifts to help us continue fulfilling our Christ-centered mission.

Thank you to all those who have attended our events, as well as to our supporters. Our ministry would not be possible without you and we are very thankful for you!

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### **Website:**

Visit our website at [concordiabile.org](http://concordiabile.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://www.concordiabile.org/category/podcasts/>

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### **Ask Dr. Saleska:**

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the ["Ask Dr. Saleska"](#) page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

### **Question:**

- 1) Is it true that "Babylon" in the book of Revelation is really referring to America?
- 2) Are the chosen people now those who believe in Jesus and not the Jewish nation?

### **Answer:**

1) Revelation 1:1b, "...He sent this revelation by way of symbols..." (NET). The Babylon that your question refers to in the book of Revelation is also pictured there as FALLEN, so I assume you are suggesting that St. John the Divine (the writer) might be predicting the fall of America because of its gross immorality.

The Old Testament Babylon had long ago been destroyed (had fallen) when St. John penned the words of Revelation 14, 16, 17, and 18. But for the Jews in John's day, that Babylon still represented the epitome of evil and destruction. Even then they remembered it as having been a threat to the existence of God's people before its final destruction. The Babylonians of the Old Testament had demolished the temple, incinerated their holy city Jerusalem, and carried the people into captivity. Therefore, for God's people, it symbolized all things evil in this world.

I do not believe that the city of Babylon in the Book of Revelation should be seen as representing some single city or nation (i.e. America); however, for New Testament people it represents (symbolizes, if you will) the hideous wickedness seen everywhere in the world. Read through Revelation 18 to get a glimpse of how this Babylon deceives, allures, and entices God's people to, "drink the wine of her adulteries." It represents a huge threat to the church of Christ. The picture of evil depicted here and the subsequent judgment should serve as a warning to God's children today. The call from heaven (Rev. 18:4) to come out of her and not to partake of her sins is similar to Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians, and to us, in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And I will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

God has not only called us out, but he has brought us out through the waters (baptism) in which our enemies were drowned. He has given us a new life, he nurtures and nourishes us through word and sacrament, and he's the one who will see to it that we reach his Promised Land. Any attempt by the church to join with earthly powers to defeat the forces of "Babylon" is worse than futile, it is an affront to the "Valiant One" whom God himself elected. Jesus Christ is not only fighting for us, but has already won the battle. "He holds the field forever."

2) 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar (God's own) people, that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." The people to whom Peter addressed these words are described in the first chapter of 1 Peter (v. 1) as "strangers" scattered throughout provinces in Asia Minor. He calls them God's "chosen" people, the "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the father...." In Romans 2:28-29 Paul says, "A person is not a Jew because he was born of Jewish parents or because he has been circumcised outwardly. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly and circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit whose praise is not of men but of God."

It is evident from the above passages that the Jews as a nation are not God's chosen people. Jews are saved in the same way as everyone else, by faith in Jesus Christ. Believers are God's chosen people. So you are correct, the chosen people now are those who believe in Jesus and not the Jewish nation.

By the way, the passages above are only a few of many others which could be used to prove the same thing.

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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 Concordia University Wisconsin with CBI e-Bulletin and A913 on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

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