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CBI e-Bulletin

August 2025

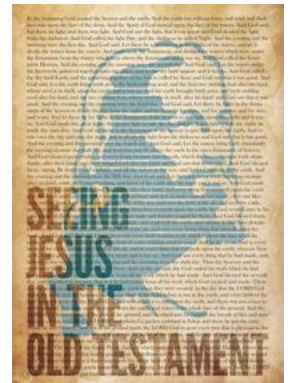
Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin!

Continue reading to learn the significance of the Jordan River in the Bible, discover the latest readings for going through the Bible in one year, and more!

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 resources to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God. If your congregation would like to host a seminar, please reach out to us at Concordia.Bible@cuw.edu

"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)



Journeying to the Jordan

Question: Why is the Jordan River such a big deal in the Bible?

Great question! Let's start by taking a look at the map above.

As you can see, the Jordan River is at the bottom of the Jordan Valley, connecting the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. On the west side of the river would be the promised land, while everything east of it would be outside that land, often called the region "beyond the Jordan" (see Matt. 4:15, 25).

Interestingly, the first time the Jordan Valley is mentioned in the Bible is way back in Genesis 13. When Abram and his nephew Lot could no longer dwell together because of how many possessions each one had, Lot chose to go toward the Jordan Valley, for "he saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord" (Gen. 13:10).

Centuries later, the Jordan River would also mark the end of the Israelites' forty-year journey through the wilderness. Once they crossed over this river, they would inherit the land of Canaan and all the accompanying blessings that the Lord had in store for them. As Moses proclaimed it, "you are to cross over the Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Deut. 11:31).

Actually, the word "Hebrew" comes from a Hebrew term that means "cross over." Quite literally, a Hebrew (or an Israelite) is a "crosser over," someone known for crossing over and deeply characterized by it. This is at the heart of a Hebrew's identity.

In the time of the kings, the prophets Elijah and Elisha had several dealings with the Jordan River. Early in his ministry, Elijah was forced to go to the area *beyond* the Jordan (1 Kgs. 17: 3, 5). Then, at the end of his ministry, Elijah was forced to return to the Jordan once more, this time retracing the steps of taking over the promised land, only *backwards* (see 2 Kings 2). The Lord wanted him to return to the Jordan once more before he ascended into heaven.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist preached and baptized at the Jordan River. As is well known, Jesus himself was also baptized there. Perhaps not as widely known, however, is how Jesus would also return to the Jordan River periodically. For example, on one occasion when the Jewish leaders sought to arrest him, "He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, *and there he remained*" (John 10:40).





It's all pretty fascinating stuff, isn't it? The Jordan River is a richly baptismal place, capable of showing us the entire Christian life. It's Eden on earth. Jesus was submerged in it. The prophets stood by it. The word was combined with it. God's people are known by it. They cross over it, go through it, spend time in it, and even splash in it. Everything about who they are depends on it. They bank on it and come back to it again and again until they receive a promised land that has no end.

Dr. Brian German

Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

Read the Bible in a Year

Do you have a goal to read the Bible in a year? Or simply looking to add to your devotions? Follow along with the calendar below. A new calendar will be sent in each newsletter. Start any time, and in a year you will have read through the entire Bible!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Habakkuk 3:2-19 2 Chronicles 1-3	2 Psalm 57 2 Chron. 4-6
3 Psalm 58 2 Chron. 7-9	4 Psalm 59 2 Chron. 10-12	5 Psalm 60 2 Chron. 13-15	6 Psalm 61 2 Chron. 16-18	7 Psalm 62 2 Chron. 19-21	8 Psalm 63 2 Chron. 22-24	9 Psalm 64 2 Chron. 25-27
10 Psalm 65 2 Chron. 28-30	11 Psalm 66 2 Chron. 31-33	12 Psalm 67 2 Chron. 34-36	13 Psalm 68 Ezra 1-5	14 Psalm 69 Ezra 6-10	15 Psalm 70 Nehemiah 1-3	16 Psalm 71 Nehemiah 4-6
17 Psalm 72 Nehemiah 7-9	18 Psalm 73 Nehemiah 10-13	19 Psalm 74 Esther 1-3	20 Psalm 75 Esther 4-6	21 Psalm 76 Esther 7-10	22 Psalm 77 Job 1-3	23 Psalm 78 Job 4-6
24 Psalm 79 Job 7-9	25 Psalm 80 Job 10-12	26 Psalm 81 Job 13-15	27 Psalm 82 Job 16-18	28 Psalm 83 Job 19-21	29 Psalm 84 Job 22-24	30 Psalm 85 Job 25-27
31 Habakkuk 3:2-19 Job 28-30						



Ask Dr. German

Do you have a question you would like to ask Dr. German?

[Just click here to submit a question](#)



Podcasts - Numbers

Dr. German has been taking us through the book of Numbers on his podcast. You can listen to our weekly podcasts by subscribing on iTunes, Google Play, or Spotify. When new episodes become available they will automatically be downloaded to your device. Just click either image to the left!

You can also catch up, or seek out other series, topics, or books of the Bible in the podcast archives on the [CBI website](#). Podcasts are around 30 minutes each.

Click the button below to sign up for email updates on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts."

Subscribe to "Christ in Every Word" Podcast (right side of page)

Archive Videos of Dr. Saleska Available

Videos from CBI archives continue to be gradually uploaded to the CBI website. These videos were taken from teaching by Dr. John Saleska and others, from as far back as 2001. You are welcome to view them at any time!



- Visit [here](#) to view all the videos we have available so far.
- Current teachings available include Dr. Saleska on Parables of the Kingdom, Christ Crucified Everywhere in Scripture, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Do Miracles Still Happen? and Prayer According to the Scriptures. **The most recent series added was Dr. Saleska's teaching on Job**, from the Spring of 2008.
- **Adding This Month:** God's Plan for the Family



Heaven on Earth: A Study of the Book of Revelation

Dr. German's study offered through Continuing Education Studies of CUW

The book of Revelation is widely known for how it speaks about things that are way "up there" and way "down the road." While this is most certainly true, its real greatness is in the many fascinating ways it reveals the "right here" and the "right now" of what is taking place in Christian worship, the place where heaven meets earth. Come take a fresh look at this challenging book. This course features a close look at eight chapters from the book of Revelation, covered over six 30-minute video lectures, each supplemented with discussion questions and other instructional material. This course is online, you can take at your own pace, and the first (of five) sections is offered free, so you can sample before deciding on the whole series. Should you choose, the full series is only \$49.

[Click Here for Heaven on Earth](#)

Concordia Bible Institute Endowment

CBI has established the Concordia Bible Institute Endowment fund for the purpose of maintaining and expanding CBI's ability to provide pastors and congregations of the Church with Christ-centered Bible instruction.

Please help spread the word about this endowment and pray for its growth. Of course, we value all contributions to CBI, which continues to thrive due to our generous supporters. [Click here](#) for ways to contribute.

Please contact Jeff Klocko, Director of Donor Relations, for details about the Endowment. He can be reached at 262-243-2170 or jeff.klocko@cuw.edu





Saleska Scholarship for Pre-Seminary Students

Help CUW provide more financial aid to Pre-Seminary students by praying for and giving to the Saleska Scholarship Endowment. Gifts can be given by congregations, groups and individuals. Visit concordiabible.org/Saleska for more info, including our informational video.

If you know someone who may be interested in the Pre-Sem program at CUW, you may reach out to Dr. LaFeve, CUW's Pre-Sem Director, at Joshua.LaFeve@cuw.edu

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Concordia University Wisconsin
Concordia Bible Institute
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Mequon, WI 53097

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