



## CBI e-Bulletin

March 2026

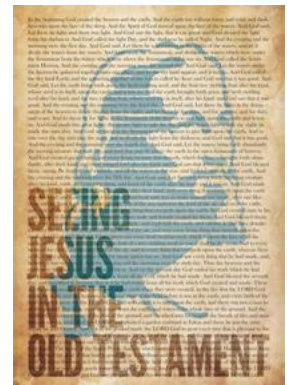
Welcome to the newest edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin! Keep reading to learn how Dr. German answers the question 'Does God Create Evil?,' how to subscribe to our YouTube channel, and more!

### What's the Concordia Bible Institute?

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](mailto: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)



### Does God Create Evil?

*Question: "Isaiah 45:7 is translated 'evil' in some translations. I do not understand how God can create evil. I see other translations which indicate 'I form light and create darkness' (rather than evil), but I still do not understand. In Christ, Joyce."*

What a great question you have here, Joyce! One of the first sermons I ever preached was on Isaiah 45:1–7, and I remember thinking, "What am I going to do with this?"

Let me first give you a wooden translation of Isaiah 45:7 to put on display the Hebrew words used there: “Forming light and creating darkness, making peace and creating evil; I am Yahweh, doing all these [things].”

The first big point to make is that the Hebrew word that I’ve translated as “evil” can indeed mean evil, but it can also carry the sense of calamity, distress, disaster, and so on. While the King James Version translated the phrase in question as “I make peace, and create *evil*,” most modern English versions opt for some other term, such as “disaster” (NIV, NASB, GNT), “calamity” (ESV, NKJ, NET), or “woe” (NAB, NRSV). Especially since the verb “create” is right before it, we don’t want to give the impression that God is in any way the *author* or *originator* of evil.

This assertion, that *God is not the creator of evil*, can be found in various confessional writings throughout the history of the church, including *The Book of Concord*, the confessions of the Lutheran church. The Augsburg Confession, for example, states that “the cause of sin is the will of the wicked, that is, of the devil and ungodly men” (Article XIX). Similarly, the Formula of Concord states that “original sin He [Christ] has not created....” Why is this so important? “[T]he distinction between God’s work and that of the devil is thereby designated in the clearest way, because the devil can create no substance, but canonically, in an accidental way, by the providence of God [God permitting], corrupt the substance created by God” (Article I).

One of the first verses that came to mind when you asked your question about Isaiah 45:7 was Job 42:11, where we see a form of that Hebrew word for “evil” used in this way: “Then came to him [Job] all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for *all the evil* that the Lord had brought upon him” (ESV).

God is not the author or originator of evil, but he has all things, including the worst calamity, in his hands. Job went through an awful lot, but in the end, he was brought closer to God and came to know his nature and character in a whole new way. This is a source of great comfort for us, for we know that all things, including the toughest, most distressful or heartbreaking moments in our lives, work together for good for those who are called according to God’s purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Dr. Brian German

Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

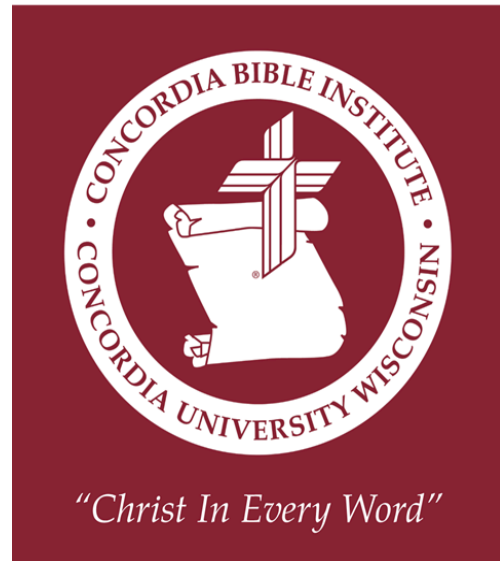
## Christ in Every Word.

## Grace for Every Heart.

The Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) is growing - and we invite you to join us. Our mission is simple yet profound: to strengthen faith and inspire believers by teaching *Christ in Every Word* of Scripture.



Biblical literacy is declining, but together we can reverse the trend. Your support equips disciples and strengthens families for generations to come.

Join us today. Together, we will multiply the reach of God's Word and proclaim His eternal Grace in Jesus Christ. **Click [here](#) to contribute.**



## Read the Bible in a Year

Do you have a goal to read the Bible in a year? Are you 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
		<b>March</b>				
						
<b>1</b> Isaiah 64:1-9 Numbers 16-18	<b>2</b> Psalm 85 Numbers 19-21	<b>3</b> Psalm 86 Num. 22-24	<b>4</b> Psalm 87 Num. 25-27	<b>5</b> Psalm 88 Num. 28-30	<b>6</b> Psalm 89 Num. 31-33	<b>7</b> Psalm 90 Num. 34-36
<b>8</b> Psalm 91 Deut. 1-3	<b>9</b> Psalm 92 Deut. 4-6	<b>10</b> Psalm 93 Deut. 7-9	<b>11</b> Psalm 94 Deut. 10-12	<b>12</b> Psalm 95 Deut. 13-15	<b>13</b> Psalm 96 Deut. 16-18	<b>14</b> Psalm 97 Deut. 19-21
<b>15</b> Psalm 98 Deut. 22-24	<b>16</b> Psalm 99 Deut. 25-27	<b>17</b> Psalm 100 Deut. 28-30	<b>18</b> Psalm 101 Deut. 31-34	<b>19</b> Psalm 102 Luke 1	<b>20</b> Psalm 103 Luke 2-3	<b>21</b> Psalm 104 Luke 4-5
<b>22</b> Psalm 105 Luke 6-7	<b>23</b> Psalm 106 Luke 8-9	<b>24</b> Psalm 107 Luke 10-11	<b>25</b> Psalm 108 Luke 12-13	<b>26</b> Psalm 109 Luke 14-15	<b>27</b> Psalm 110 Luke 16-17	<b>28</b> Psalm 111 Luke 18-19
<b>29</b> Psalm 112 Luke 20-21	<b>30</b> Psalm 113 Luke 22	<b>31</b> Isaiah 64:1-9 Luke 23-24				



## Podcasts in Video *and* Audio Format!

Dr. German just began taking us through the book of Deuteronomy on his podcast! All podcasts are available as video podcasts on YouTube or as audio podcasts on our web site! You can also still listen to the audio 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.



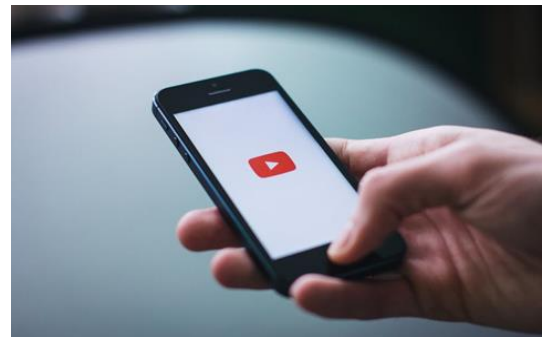
You also have the option to subscribe to the Video Podcasts by subscribing to our YouTube channel - see below for details.

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

## Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

In addition to our video podcasts, our YouTube channel is a place to find Dr. German's teaching through original video shorts and more!

Check out the [CBI YouTube Channel here](#), or even better, **subscribe to be alerted when new content is available!**



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Ask Dr. German

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

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



## 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 *still* only \$49.

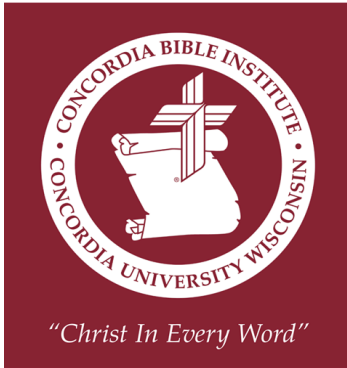
**[Click Here for Heaven on Earth](#)**

### Archive Videos of Dr. Saleska Available

Videos from CBI archives are available on demand, on the CBI website! These videos were taken from teaching by Dr. John Saleska between 2001 and 2010. Browse and view at your convenience -

- Visit [here](#) to view all the videos we have available so far.
- Teachings available include Parables of the Kingdom, Christ Crucified Everywhere in Scripture, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Do Miracles Still Happen? and Prayer According to the Scriptures.





## 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](mailto: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](http://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. LaFève, CUW's Pre-Sem Director, at [Joshua.LaFève@cuw.edu](mailto:Joshua.LaFève@cuw.edu)

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