

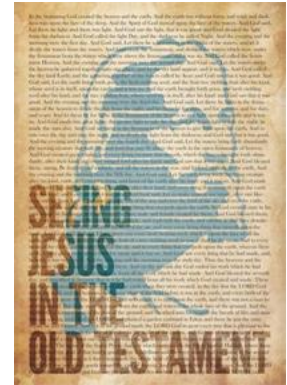
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CBI e-Bulletin

May 2026

Welcome to the newest edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin! Keep reading to learn the identity of a mysterious visitor to Joshua and stay connected with all CBI has to offer!



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

"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)



Who is the Commander of the Lord's Army?

It's a strange encounter, isn't it? Joshua and the people of Israel are on the verge of attacking Jericho, but right before the battle, Joshua meets a majestic figure called "the commander of the Lord's army." The account goes like this:

"When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, 'Are you for us, or for our adversaries?' And he said, 'No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.' And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, 'What does my lord say to his servant?'

And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, 'Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so" (Josh. 5:13–15).

Modern English translations typically have Joshua "by Jericho" or "near Jericho," but the Hebrew (and Greek, for that matter) has Joshua quite literally "*in Jericho*." That's right: before the people are even in Jericho, Joshua goes before them. In the same vein, even though the commander of the Lord's army clearly has a drawn sword in his hand, Joshua goes right up to him, seemingly without hesitation.

Notice also how the text first describes the commander as a "man" before we learn his full identity. The man whom Joshua sees has hands, just as humans do, and he stands just as humans stand. And yet, this man is also worthy of Joshua's worship. The commander of the Lord's army is a man, but he's also divine. Sound familiar?

Joshua wants to know if this commander is "for us or for our adversaries." Interestingly, the first word of the commander's response is "No." Why is that?

Well, for starters, the Lord is the Lord of all. He wants *all* people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). On that note, the commander's response to Joshua is not so much "I'm on your side" as much as "*You're on my side*."

At the same time, this commander is at the helm of the Lord's *army*. That word "army" is used throughout the Old Testament for both heavenly and earthly hosts. Really, the Lord has one army that lives in heaven and earth at the same time, and this commander is at its head. Again, sound familiar?

With that in place, Joshua falls on his face, worships the commander, and asks, "What does my lord say to his servant?" The commander tells Joshua to take the sandals off his feet, which Joshua does, and the scene concludes.

Fascinating, isn't it? Where this commander is, there is heaven. Where this commander is, there is holiness. This commander wants to be near us. He asks that we remove any barriers or layers of separation that get in between him and us. He wants physical contact with us. He has come *to* us so that he can go *before* us. Even and especially when we're on the verge of life's biggest battles, he's already won the ultimate victory for us.

Again, sound familiar?

Dr. Brian German

Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

Read the Bible in a Year

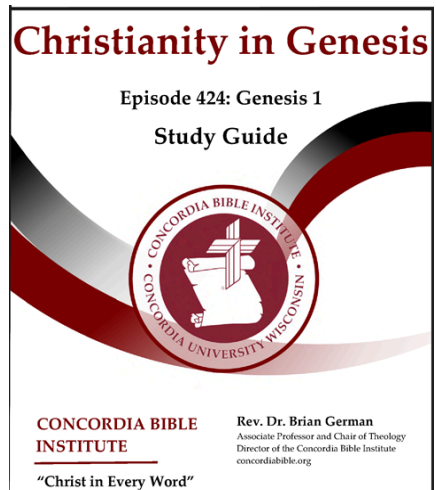
Do you have a goal to read the Bible in a year? Are you looking to add to your devotions? Follow along with the calendar below. A new calendar will be sent in each newsletter. Start any time, and in a year you will have read through the entire Bible!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		May				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							

NEW Study Guides for Congregations

We are now developing study guides to provide pastors and small group leaders with materials to make it easy to lead Bible studies based on Dr. German's podcasts. Each study, like the one on the right, includes an overview of the podcast, key topics, important ideas and quotes from the podcast, and discussion questions.

A web page for ordering CBI Study Guides is in the works, with the goal of having study guides available for every podcast that is on our YouTube channel.



Sample of Study Guide Cover



Podcasts in Video *and* Audio Format!

Dr. German is taking us through the book of Joshua 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 to iTunes, Google Play, or Spotify. When new episodes become available they will automatically be downloaded to your device. Click an image to the left for Spotify or iTunes, or the maroon button to receive email notifications as new episodes become available.



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

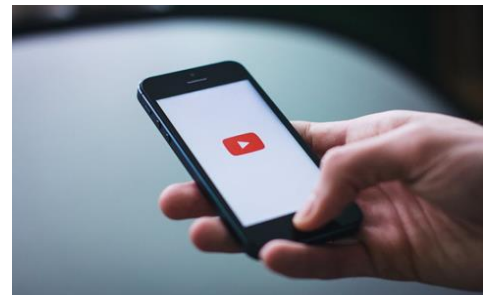
You can also catch up or seek out other series, topics, or books of the Bible in the podcast archives directly on the [CBI website](#) or [YouTube Channel](#). Podcasts are around 30minutes each.

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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!

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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.

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.

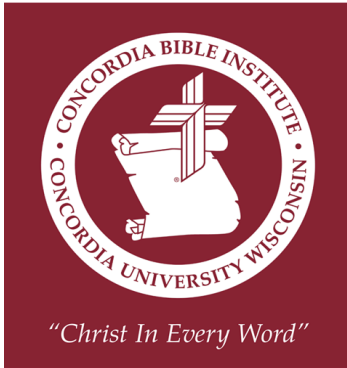
Join us today. Together, we will multiply the reach of God's Word and proclaim His eternal Grace in Jesus Christ. **Click [here](#) to contribute.**



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



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. LaFave, CUW's Pre-Sem Director, at Joshua.LaFave@cuw.edu

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Concordia Bible Institute
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.
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