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CBI e-Bulletin

September 2025

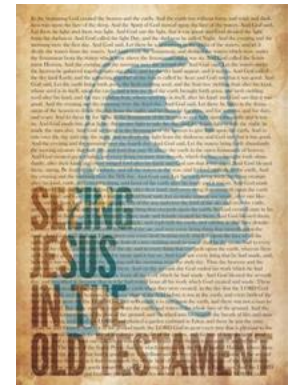
Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin!

Continue reading to learn about the *real* genealogy of Joseph, find an answer to a question about the nation of Israel in the book of Judges, 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)



Introducing Joseph the Patriarch

I'm really struck by how Joseph the patriarch is introduced to us in Genesis 37. As you likely know, the last major chunk of Genesis (chapters 37–50) is pretty much all about Joseph, and here's what we're given first: "These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, a son of seven and ten years, was shepherding the flock with his brothers..." (37:2).

That, I think, is rather remarkable. "These are the generations of Jacob," and just when you might expect to see a big list of names, we get "Joseph, a son of seven and ten years, was shepherding the flock with his brothers...." Where are the generations? It reminds me of how chapter 6 introduces Noah: "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God" (6:9). Again, where are the generations? Well, the real genealogy that Genesis is after is the genealogy of those who walk with God in righteousness, as Noah did, those who dwell on the ark in the midst of a hell-bent world, and so on.

"These are the generations of Jacob." That is, Jacob's genealogy is really this: *Joseph*, and all that happens to him over the last fourteen chapters of Genesis. Yes, Jacob's genealogy at its essence is those who embody or those who are being conformed to the image of Joseph—those who are sent forth as beloved children, those who are not received by their own, those who are humiliated before being exalted, and so on—all *this* is what makes a true son of Jacob. That's what his genealogy is all about.

So, what genealogy are *you* striving to be in these days? Is it a genealogy of power or wealth? A lineage of status or legacy? Whatever the case, Joseph shows us a much better one. And here's the best part of it all...

After the text tells us Joseph's age, we then get some rather unusual Hebrew. Quite literally, the next part of Gen. 37:2 reads, "[Joseph] was shepherding *his brothers with the flock*" (37:2). Yes, many modern English versions of the Bible will render that "shepherding the flock with his brothers," but the word order is clearly *shepherding—brothers—flock*. Why put it this way?

Because Joseph is primarily a shepherd of *people*. People with divisions in the family. People with jealousy problems. People chasing after their own ways, and people who need to be shepherded into a much better Way. These are the people whom Joseph goes searching after no matter how far they've strayed, and people whom Joseph is not ashamed to call "brothers," even after they threw him into death.


Seems to me, then, that in the introduction to Joseph is a splendid introduction to our life in Christ. We, like Joseph, are sent forth into the world as God's beloved children, all for the sake of those around us. And in our hardships, we are being conformed to the image of a much greater Joseph, a Joseph who continues through these hardships to draw us to himself, keep us in *his* lineage, and exalt us at the proper time.

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 1 Chron. 29:10-13 Job 31-33 Happy Labor Day!	2 Psalm 86 Job 34-36	3 Psalm 87 Job 37-39	4 Psalm 88 Job 40-42	5 Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3	6 Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7
7 Psalm 91 Proverbs 8-10	8 Psalm 92 Proverbs 11-13	9 Psalm 93 Proverbs 14-16	10 Psalm 94 Proverbs 17-19	11 Psalm 95 Prov. 20-22	12 Psalm 96 Prov. 23-25	13 Psalm 97 Prov. 26-28
14 Psalm 98 Prov. 29-31	15 Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3	16 Psalm 100 Eccl. 4-6	17 Psalm 101 Eccl. 7-9	18 Psalm 102 Eccl. 10-12	19 Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4	20 Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8
21 Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3	22 Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6	23 Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9	24 Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12	25 Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15	26 Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18	27 Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22
28 Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25	29 Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28	30 1 Chron. 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31				



Ask Dr. German

What happened in Judges 19-20 is a very sad story in Israel's history. The people of Israel seem to value their identity as a nation, but by the way the people are described throughout the book of Judges, it almost seems they all live as separate tribes with no sense of national identity. So, I was surprised how they came together to deal with the evils of the tribe of Benjamin. Do you think if they lived more like a coherent nation, this might not have happened? Also, would this incident be considered a civil war?

Answer:

You have some great questions here! Thanks for asking. Yes, I think your instincts are spot on: the more you move through the book of Judges, the more fragmented the people of Israel become. As God's people continue to "do what is right in their own eyes," they continue to suffer the effects of sin: selfishness, animosity toward one another, and division—an earthly and spiritual civil war, you might say.

One way I've heard the book of Judges described is the "Canaanization" of Israel; by the end of the book, Israel has become nearly indistinguishable from the Canaanites they're supposed to be overcoming!

But even when one of the tribes is on the verge of being completely eliminated, in the last chapter of the book there is a glimmer of hope: the Lord preserves the tribe of Benjamin after all, even as he promises to preserve his church until the Last Day.

Peace,

Dr. German

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

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



Podcasts - Current Series: 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 of the images below and to the left. We also announce the availability of new podcasts on our FaceBook page!

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. Podcasts are around 30 minutes each.

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

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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 New Testament Mountain Peaks: Christ Lifted Up, from the Spring of 2009.
- **Adding This Month:** Ephesians



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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