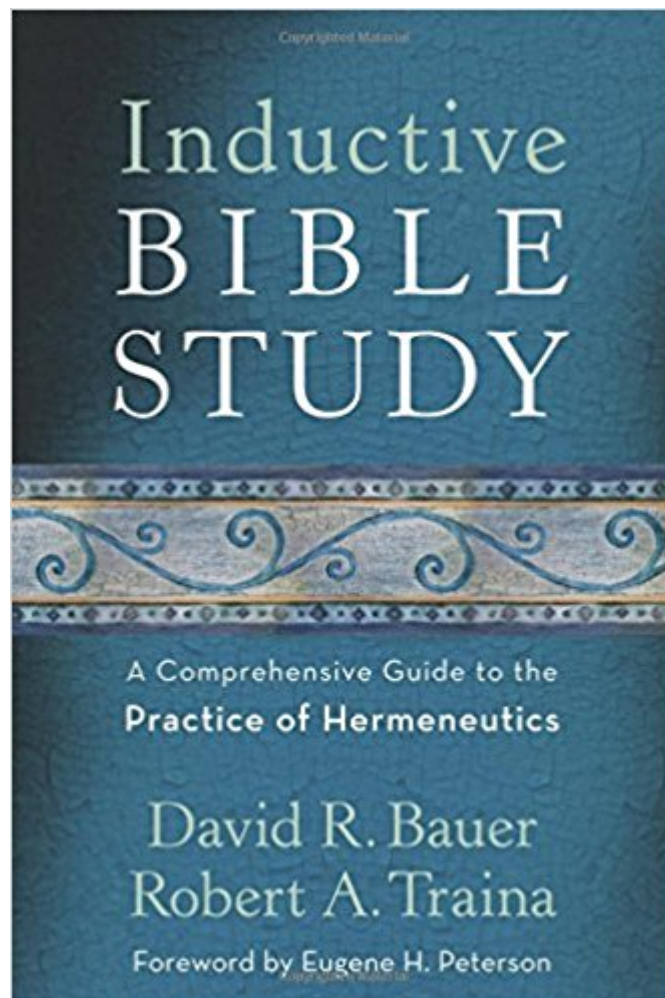




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# Inductive Bible Study: A Comprehensive Guide To The Practice Of Hermeneutics



## Synopsis

Two seasoned educators provide step-by-step instructions on how to think inductively and do inductive Bible study, demonstrating the practice of that approach. Now in paper.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For half a century, Robert Traina's method of inductive Bible study has taught students the most important critical-thinking skill of all: how to read! His method trains people to attend closely to what is in a text and what is not in a text, to follow a text's argument, and to map its narrative flow. Now David Bauer adds to the collaborative mix his own formidable strengths as an experienced teacher of inductive Bible study and as an internationally recognized biblical scholar. Together they present a finely honed guide to the process of observation, interpretation, and appropriation, enhanced with examples of how to execute each step and with helpful discussions about both the place of their approach in the landscape of contemporary hermeneutical debates and the connections between critical approaches and their inductive method. This volume lays an essential foundation for critical analysis and careful exegesis."--David A. deSilva, Ashland Theological Seminary

"I have personally used Bauer and Traina's method of inductive Bible study for more than twenty-five years and can testify to its effectiveness for understanding Scripture in ways that are both academically responsible and pastorally relevant. The approach allows Scripture to reveal itself, to speak on its own terms in ways that overcome the limitations and presuppositions of its readers. This volume presents that time-honored approach for a new generation--and it is a remarkable achievement! Students will appreciate a text that is so immediately accessible and, eventually, will come to

treasure this volume as a handbook to be consulted repeatedly throughout their professional careers."--Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary"Many of us learned years ago to begin Bible study for ourselves with 'observation, interpretation, and application,' doing as much as possible on our own before turning to other resources. We may not have known one of the classic sources that outlined this method in comprehensive detail by Robert Traina. Now masterfully updated, with state-of-the-art scholarship and bibliographic references, this tome has been made useful for a new generation by David Bauer and Robert Traina. Part hermeneutics, part exegesis, part philosophy and logic, with numerous illustrations from Scripture itself, Inductive Bible Study does not supplant the standard works in each of these areas but helpfully supplements many of them."--Craig L. Blomberg, Denver Seminary

David R. Bauer (PhD, Union Theological Seminary, Virginia) is Ralph Waldo Beeson Professor of Inductive Biblical Studies and dean of the School of Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He is the author of several books, including An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry. Robert A. Traina (1921-2010) was professor of English Bible at The Biblical Seminary in New York and at Asbury Theological Seminary for over forty years. He received his PhD from Drew University and authored the influential classic Methodical Bible Study.

A classmate of mine has rightly described Inductive Bible Study as a worthy sequel to Methodical Bible Study. Compared to its prequel, Inductive Bible Study is not as hard to read as its prequel. Also, it lays out the whole methodical Bible study process in a very orderly, step by step, easy to understand process that does a great job of moving from studying the Book as a Whole to Detailed Observation and beyond. I would also recommend buying Methodical Bible Study for many of its rich comments from Dr. Traina and the examples of making charts and outlines in Appendix A and C. Together, these two books will provide you a rich and solid foundation in studying the Bible inductively. I would suggest, though, reading Inductive Bible Study first.

During my senior year at Asbury Seminary (1983), I had a conversation with Dr. Robert Traina, whose book "Methodical Bible Study" was the precursor to this volume. In that conversation, Dr. Traina expressed an interest in writing a sequel to his book - one that would address the most glaring weakness of that work; His sequel would explain the step-by-step procedure for doing inductive Bible study - the procedure he so effectively taught in his seminary classes. This book

fulfills Dr. Traina's intentions in exemplary fashion. Undoubtedly, this book will be the standard textbook for college and seminary classes for decades to come. It is difficult to know how much Dr. Traina and Dr. Bauer collaborated on this volume given that Dr. Traina died in November, 2010. His contribution to this volume might very well be the lecture materials he presented in his classes. If that is the case, Dr. Bauer has done an commendable job of elaborating on those notes, filling in inevitable gaps that occur when explaining such a complicated process to beginning students. Those of us who studied under Dr. Traina (I majored in English Bible under his tutelage), will realize when reading this book that this is Dr. Bauer's book. He is to be commended for an excellent volume. Dr. Bauer divided his volume into 5 parts. An introductory unit explaining the philosophy of inductive study contains the most glaring weakness of the book. I would like to have seen a chapter on why we study the Bible. In my own teaching, my students cannot articulate why they study the Bible apart from broad generalities. Why we study the Bible dictates the method we use to study it. The next four parts explain in detail the four major steps of Bible study: Observation and Asking, Answering or Interpretation, Evaluating and Appropriation (what we have often called "Application", and the most neglected step of all, Correlation. A lengthy appendix addresses significant issues related to the inductive method. The extensive bibliography at the end is thorough. Two other weaknesses come to mind: First, the book references a website on the inductive method, but the website needs more development to be useful. Second, in my conversation with Dr. Traina, he told me that he intended to provide a model of inductive study in his second volume. While this book does contain very helpful examples, it would be considerably more helpful if it provided a model of inductive study. The website would be a good place to provide such a model. My own website ([...]) will provide such a model soon. This book is not for laypeople (See David L. Thompson's book, *Bible Study that Works* for an excellent resource for laypeople). It will be widely used in academia. And, despite its thorough explanation of inductive methodology, it does not take the place of interaction between a qualified instructor and his or her students. That being said, I highly recommend this volume.

This book was one I truly looked forward to reading because of my love of the Scriptures and my desire to have meaningful and engaging study. The first half of the book was actually easier to get a handle on than the second half for me. A lot of what is set forth in this book is for the serious student but I do plan to employ some aspects of this book in my own study. I look forward to exploring the resources available on their website.

This book is the sequel to Dr. Traina's earlier book on Inductive Bible Study and it leaves little room for expansion. This book is an excellent expansion of the previous book and delivers a comprehensive description of how to apply the Inductive Bible Study method to reading the Bible. The book is very well written, but it is targeted for seminary students and clergypersons, so is not readily accessible to those readers who might not have that type of background or preparation. For the serious student of the Bible, this should be required reading.

While I am only one third finished, I can already see that it is an indispensable book for people with a serious interest in getting the most out of Bible study in an English translation.

This is a great book on inductive bible study. Most all other books quote from this master piece of work. This is a must have for crucial bible study.

It is a great book for those who want a strong and serious study of the Bible. It is not easy to read but the real challenge is to practice the method presented. The IBS is designed as a resource to be applied.

Great book for any class planning to involve studying the text of scripture. Bauer is very systematic and in depth, and yet is very clear and concise.

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