

From the Editors

Fredrick J. Long

Major Structural Relationships (MSRs) are foundational for observation and interpretation in Inductive Bible Study (IBS). In *JIBS* 1.1 (2014): 22–58, I set forth a history and accounting of MSRs within the practice of IBS. In that article (pp. 25–26), I indicated a desire to return to investigate the relationship of MSRs to “Vital Relations” that described ways in which ideas and concepts are conceived within the field of Conceptual Integration Theory (CIT). After presenting a conference paper on this and with some additional editing, I am happy here to see this research published in the first article “Vital Relations and Major Structural Relationships: Heuristic Approaches to Observe and Explore Biblical and Other Discourse” (pp. 92–128). After briefly orienting readers to CIT and IBS and the use of VRs and MSRs within each approach, the article concludes by investigating the presence of VRs and MRs within several New Testament passages.

Caleb T. Loudon next in “The Chiastic Arrangement of the Lukan Temptation Narrative” (pp. 129–54) applies a rigorous method for assessing the viability of observed chiasms (from the dissertation of Craig Arnold Smith) working with the order of temptations in Luke 4:1–14a. It is customary to understand the difference in the order of the temptations between Matthew and Luke to be thematic differences of the two Gospels; Matthew’s order ends with the temptation to gain all the kingdoms of the world whereas Luke ends with the temptation to be saved from death at the temple. However, Loudon shows that each Gospel writer stresses the “all the kingdoms temptation” in different ways: Matthew ends climactically with it while Luke places it in the center of a chiasm. Loudon first presented this research in my

NT901 NT Research Methods class, and it is great to see his excellent work published now for others to read.

Rick Boyd next presents his research on “The Role of Hebrews 1:1–4 in the Book of Hebrews” (pp. 155–81). This article reflects Boyd’s deep knowledge of the book of Hebrews arising from his dissertation work under the supervision of David R. Bauer at the London School of Theology to be published as *Sonship as the Central Theological Motif and Unifying Theme of Hebrews*. Hence, the research in this article is deep and comes from the world’s expert on the sonship of Jesus in the Book of Hebrews. One will not find an article more carefully researched and thoroughly grounded in Scripture than Boyd’s welcome contribution to this issue of *JIBS*.

Next, IBS has applicability in various languages and cultural settings. Classes once labelled “EB” (English Bible) at Asbury Theological Seminary are no longer so called for good reason. Daniel Nii Aboagye Aryeh in his article “Contemporary Hermeneutics: An Examination of Selected Works of J. D. K. Ekem on Mother Tongue Biblical Hermeneutics for the African Context” argues well that for the average Christian, the study of Scripture should take place in one’s mother tongue. Following the work of Ghanaian scholar Ekem, Aryeh surveys the hermeneutical landscape of Africa and aptly articulates the need for “mother tongue biblical hermeneutics” (MTBH) which completely aligns with the foundation and viewpoint of IBS.

Finally, Brian D. Russell shares “The Story of My Work with IBS” (pp. 21–24). More than a story, Russell describes his missional approach of moving from Bible study to its missional application today. before each of us continued on to complete our doctoral work. Here we learn how Russell has come to his Missional Hermeneutics and his passion for teaching IBS in the light of God’s mission in Christ. On a personal note, a very enjoyable time for me was working alongside Brian as Teaching Fellows of Hebrew and Greek at Asbury Theological Seminary in the early 1990s.

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