

From the Editors

Fredrick J. Long

It is astounding that *The Journal of Inductive Biblical Studies (JIBS)* is completing Volume 6 with this summer issue. Readers must remember that Volume 5 of *JIBS* consists of the following published Festschrift for Dr. Robert A. Traina,

Long, Fredrick J., and David R. Bauer. *Method in Teaching Inductive Bible Study—A Practitioner’s Handbook: Essays in Honor of Robert A. Traina with His Unpublished Material on the Subject*. GlossaHouse Festschrift Series 2, *The Journal of Inductive Biblical Studies Monograph Series* 1. Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2019.

This book contains over fifty pages of hitherto unpublished material by Dr. Traina in which he describes his “Method in Bible Teaching.” This opening piece is then followed by twenty essays by his students or students of his students who reflect on Dr. Traina’s pedagogy as well as share their experiences and insights teaching IBS in various venues including the church, higher education in colleges and seminaries, and even the academy. The book includes an appendix of sample syllabi for a variety of IBS courses taught at undergraduate and graduate levels.

Importantly also, this book dedicated to Dr. Traina inaugurates *The Journal of Inductive Biblical Studies Monograph Series*. This new series has as its goal to publish “creative, interpretive, hermeneutically informed, and exploratory research from the perspective of Inductive Biblical Study applied to Scripture and other discourse.” This purpose is admittedly broad and seeks to promote the theory and praxis of IBS methodology and perspective. As co-editor of this series along with

David R. Bauer, I would encourage you to consider offering a proposal for this series by contacting either one of us and/or by submitting a proposal at <https://www.glossahouse.com/proposals>.

Now, this present Summer Issue of *JIBS* 6/2 contains three articles. The first, by my IBS teacher and mentor David R. Bauer, surveys “Streeter Versus Farmer: The Present State of the Synoptic Problem as Argument for a Synchronic Emphasis in Gospel Interpretation” (7–28). Here Bauer shows the limitations of redaction criticism that it is essentially “contingent and conditional” (27) while advocating for resting our interpretation not on conditional reconstructions, but on “the Gospel texts themselves.” This foundational approach, sometimes called “new redaction criticism” (28) supports Gospel comparisons as a basis of evidence collection while including Mark’s “redaction” (selection, inclusion, ordering, etc. of materials) which is often excluded if Mark is deemed the Ur-gospel in many redaction critical assumptions.

Next, Lindy Backues offers Part 2, “Construing Culture as Composition—Robert Traina’s Methodology” (29–62). Backues’s first contribution as Part 1 “Construing Culture as Composition—The Narrative Nature of Truth” is found in *JIBS* 6/1 (2019 Winter): 7–54. Here in Part 2, Backues summarizes Traina’s hermeneutical methodology as it pertains especially to reveal “the embedded, fundamental structure of a given biblical text” as well as to ask penetrating questions that lead “the exegete to engage in a deeper and more accurate meaning of the text in question” (29). The concluding Part 3 of Backues’s articles, entitled “Construing Culture as Composition—Traina’s Methodology Culturally Applied” will be published in *JIBS* 7/1 (Winter 2020).

Finally, James (Jim) C. Miller concludes this current issue by offering autobiographically “My Journey with Inductive Bible Study” (63–73). Among many things, particularly noteworthy of Miller’s reflections are his view of IBS as *formational* and the appropriation of Scripture within an IBS perspective as *missional*.

