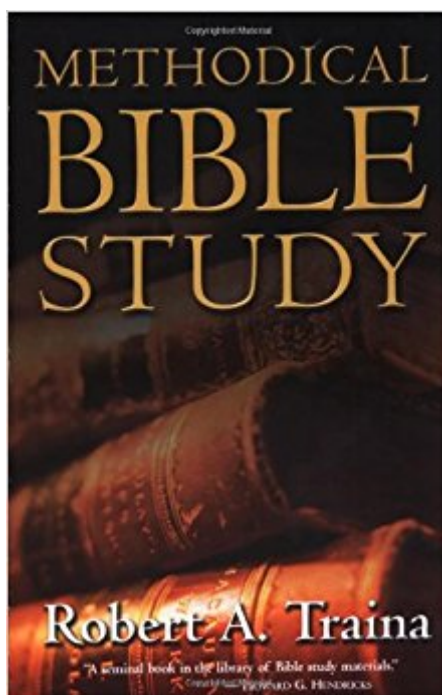


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# Methodical Bible Study



## Synopsis

Inductive study compares related Bible texts in order to let the Bible interpret itself, rather than approaching Scripture with predetermined notions of what it will say. Dr. Traina's *Methodical Bible Study* was not intended to be the last word in inductive Bible study; but since its first publication in 1952, it has become a foundational text in this field. Christian colleges and seminaries have made it required reading for beginning Bible students, while many churches have used it for their lay Bible study groups. Dr. Traina summarizes its success in this comment: "If the truths of the Bible already resided in man, there would be no need for the Bible and this manual would be superfluous. But the fact is the Bible is an objective body of literature which exists because man needs to know certain truths which he himself cannot know. There are two main approaches open to the Bible student. One is deduction, which begins with generalizations and moves for their support to the particulars. By its very nature deduction tends to be subjective and prejudicial. Its opposite, induction, is objective and impartial; for it demands that one first examine the particulars of the Scriptures and that one's conclusions be based on those particulars. Such an approach is sound because, being objective, it corresponds to the objective nature of the Scriptures." This book fills the need for a simple, practical textbook in hermeneutics. It encourages the serious Bible student to practice the best kind of hermeneutic, which allows the Word of God to speak for itself.

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approaching Scripture with predetermined notions of what it will say. Dr. Traina's Methodical Bible Study was not intended to be the last word in inductive Bible study; but since its first publication in 1952, it has become a foundational text in this field. Christian colleges and seminaries have made it required reading for beginning Bible students, while many churches have used it for their lay Bible study groups. Dr. Traina summarizes its success in this comment: 'If the truths of the Bible already resided in man, there would be no need for the Bible and this manual would be superfluous. But the fact is the Bible is an objective body of literature which exists because man needs to know certain truths which he himself cannot know. There are two main approaches open to the Bible student. One is deduction, which begins with generalizations and moves for their support to the particulars. By its very nature deduction tends to be subjective and prejudicial. Its opposite, induction, is objective and impartial; for it demands that one first examine the particulars of the Scriptures and that one's conclusions be based on those particulars. Such an approach is sound because, being objective, it corresponds to the objective nature of the Scriptures.' This book fills the need for a simple, practical textbook in hermeneutics. It encourages the serious Bible student to practice the best kind of hermeneutic, which allows the Word of God to speak for itself.

Robert A. Traina was Thompson Professor of Biblical Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore KY. He held the STB and STM degrees from Biblical Seminary in New York and the PhD degree from Drew University.

This is a well-thought-out and detailed book about the inductive Bible study method. That is, it helps you make observations and ask interpretive questions of the Biblical text and helps you find answers to those questions within the text itself. I have had to read it for a seminary class. It is not the most exciting book in the world - sometimes the observations can be fairly obvious, and there are a lot of footnotes and some repetition. But this does not take anything away from its importance, which I think it has. Because to me very few things are more important than knowing how to study your Bible. One of my favorite things in the book is the author's sample of how to make observations and ask interpretive questions related to the text, using Psalm 23 as his case study. The insights you will gain from this sample "walk through" are amazing; it will probably change how you read the Scriptures. So be warned. It's good, but it's boring at times too! It's good to have a class or an outlet where you can practice these concepts where it is not all conceptual.

The book is basically a new book. Traina has some very helpful tips for reading the bible. They apply

to biblical, students, laymen and anyone who desire to get more from the biblical text by doing inductive bible study. Readers should let the text speak for itself rather imposing or implying or assumptions.

Though the book is dated (recognizable by some of the language that is out of style), it is a very practical tool for teaching people how to study the Bible.

written for college professors and is hard for the layperson to read.

Its ok

A definitive volume on in-depth Bible study.

The best book on the topic!

I read this book half way, but if I were to give to someone else, you can be assured that you get lost along the way...read at your own risk.

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