

Joshua M. Matson

Assistant Professor – Department of Ancient Scripture and the Jerusalem Center
Brigham Young University
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EDUCATION & DEGREES EARNED

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, United States

Ph.D. in Religions of Western Antiquity, Minor in American Religious History — 2021

Dissertation: *Reviving the Bones of the Prophets: Re-Evaluating the Status of the Hebrew Bible Collection of Smaller Prophetic Writings in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the late Second Temple Period*

University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

Visiting Research Fellow, *Scripta Qumranica Electronica* Project — 2018 – 2019

Trinity Western University, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

M.A. in Biblical Studies — 2015

Thesis: *Employing Deuteronomy: An Analysis of the Quotations and Allusions to Deuteronomy in the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, United States

B.A. with University Honors in Ancient Near Eastern Studies — 2013

Honors Thesis: *The Language of Symbols in the Wilford Woodruff Journals*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2024

Brigham Young University

The New Testament (REL A 211)

Teachings and Doctrines of the Book of Mormon (REL A 275)

Spring 2024

Brigham Young University

The New Testament (REL A 211)

Winter 2024

Brigham Young University

Jesus Christ and His Everlasting Gospel (REL A 250)

The Book of Mormon (REL A 121)

The New Testament (REL A 211)

Fall 2023

Brigham Young University

Jesus Christ and His Everlasting Gospel (REL A 250)

Winter 2022

Brigham Young University

The New Testament (REL A 211)

Fall 2020 – Winter 2021

Tallahassee Institute of Religion

Latter-day Saint History: 1815 – 1846 (REL C 341)

Foundations of the Restoration (REL C 225)

Fall 2019 – Winter 2020

Florida State University

Introduction to the Old Testament (REL 2210)

Tallahassee Institute of Religion

The Old Testament (REL A 301)

The Old Testament (REL A 302)

Pearl of Great Price (REL A 327)

Summer 2019

Brigham Young University

The New Testament (REL A 211)

Fall 2017 – Winter 2018

Florida State University

Introduction to World Religions (REL 1300)

Tallahassee Institute of Religion

The Old Testament (REL A 301)

The Old Testament (REL A 302)

Teachings and Doctrines of the

Book of Mormon (REL A 327)

Fall 2016 – Winter 2017

Florida State University

Introduction to the Old Testament (REL 2210)

Tallahassee Institute of Religion

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (HEB 101)

The Living Prophets (REL C 333)

Survey of World Religions (REL C 351)

Fall 2015 – Winter 2016

Tallahassee Institute of Religion

The New Testament (REL A 211)

The New Testament (REL A 212)

Pearl of Great Price (REL A 327)

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

Essential Tools for Understanding the New Testament: Co-Editor with S. Kent Brown, BYU New Testament Commentary Series. Provo, UT: BYU Studies, 2024.

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters

“Decoding the Self-Tracking Symbols of Wilford Woodruff’s Journals,” in *BYU Studies* 63.1 (2024): 151–204.

“Unmuting the Helping Voices: A Short History of Guiding Latter-day Saint Study of the New Testament,” *Essential Tools for Understanding the New Testament*, eds. S. Kent Brown and Joshua M. Matson. Provo, UT: BYU Studies, 2024, 31–67.

“Training Up a Child in the Way: Parenting in the Book of Mormon” in *Book of Mormon Insights: Letting God Prevail in Your Life*, eds. Kenneth L. Alford, Mary Jane Woodgar, and Krystal Pierce. Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2023, 229–240.

“I Am Jesus Christ, the Son of God,” in *I Glory in My Jesus: Understanding Christ in the Book of Mormon*, 2023 Come Follow Me Symposium in Honor of Sidney B. Sperry, eds. John Hilton III, Krystal Pierce, Mark Ogletree, Nicholas Frederick, and Brent Nordgren. Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2023, 37–61.

‘The Teachings of Hosea: Correcting the Heart,’ *Old Testament Insights: The Sacrifice of a Broken Heart and Contrite Spirit*, eds. Kenneth L. Alford, Mary Jane Woodgar, and Gaye Strathearn. Salt Lake City: Covenant, 2021, 193–204.

‘Covenants, Kinship, and Caring for the Destitute in the Book of Amos,’ *A Covenant of Compassion: Caring for the Marginalized and Disadvantaged in the Old Testament*, eds. Avram R. Shannon, Joshua Sears, and Gaye Strathearn. Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2021, 427–48 and reprinted in *Religious Educator* 23.3 (2022): 47–63.

‘From Jewish King to Islamic Prophet: Conversations about Solomon in Antique Islamic Literature’ in *Arc: Journal of the School of Religious Studies* 48 (2020): 51–75.

‘Between the Testaments: The History of Judea between the Testaments of the Bible,’ *New Testament History, Culture, and Society: A Background to the Texts of the New Testament*, ed. Lincoln Blumell. Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2019, 3–18 and reprinted, with modifications, as ‘Bridging the Biblical Gap: The History of Judea between the Testaments of the Bible,’ *Learn of Me: History and Teachings of the New Testament*, eds. John Hilton III and Nicholas J. Frederick. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, 2022, 15–36.

‘The Fourth Gospel and Expectations of the Jewish Messiah,’ *Thou Art the Christ: 47th Annual BYU Sidney B. Sperry Symposium*, eds. Eric Huntsman, Lincoln Blumell, and Tyler Griffin. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2018, 175–91.

“Where the World, Babel, and Zion Meet: Re-Defining the Mormon People at the 1964–65 Mormon Pavilion.” *Journal of Mormon History* 44, no. 3 (Summer 2018): 89–111.

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters, continued ...

'Nehemiah 2:13–16 (Inv.MOTB.SCR.003175),' co-authored with Martin Abegg, Jr., Ryan Blackwelder, Ryan D. Schroeder, and Joseph Kyle Stewart, *Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments in the Museum Collection*, Publications of Museum of the Bible 1, eds. Emanuel Tov, Kipp Davis, and Robert Duke. Leiden: Brill, 2016, 210–21.

Other Articles & Reviews

"Brigham Young," in *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*, ed. Gary Scott Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2020.

'Sadducees,' *The Database of Religious History*, 24 August 2020.

Review of *The Dead Sea Scrolls Rewriting of Samuel and Kings*, Ariel Feldman, *biblische notizen* 175 (2017): 147–48.

Review of *On Prophets, Warriors, and Kings: Former Prophets Through the Eyes of their Interpreters*, eds. George J. Brooke and Ariel Feldman, *Ancient Jew Review*, 23 October 2017.

Review of *Reading the Scrolls and Experiencing Qumran Archaeology with Hanan Eshel*, eds. Shani Tzoref and Barnea Levi Selavan, *Ancient Jew Review*, 11 September 2017.

Review of *In Memoriam John Strugnell: Four Studies*, Marcel Sigrist and Stephens, *Dead Sea Discoveries* 23 (2016): 255–57.

'Joachim and Boaz,' *Lexham Bible Dictionary*, ed. John D. Barry. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014.

'Qumran Pesharim,' *Lexham Bible Dictionary*, ed. John D. Barry. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014.

Forthcoming Works

"The 'I Am' Statements of Jesus Christ in the Doctrine and Covenants," *Doctrine and Covenants Insights*, eds. Kenneth L. Alford, Mary Jane Woodgar, and Mark Matthews (Accepted, Forthcoming, November 2024)

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

June 2024	'Make me a participant in your words (ALD 3:17): Re-Imagining the Prayer of Levi a Prophetic Text in Light of Chronicles,' 2024 Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, Quebec, Montreal, Canada
May 2024	'Introductory Volume: Discipleship to Christ through Study of the Ancient Text,' 2024 BYU New Testament Commentary Conference, Provo, Utah, United States
January 2024	'I Am Jesus Christ, the Son of God,' <i>Come Follow Me Symposium in Honor of Sidney B. Sperry</i> , Provo, Utah, United States
April 2023	'Enticements from the Introductory Volume,' 2023 BYU New Testament Commentary Conference, Provo, Utah, United States
March 2023	'The Language of Symbols in the Wilford Woodruff Journals,' Wilford Woodruff Papers Foundation, Building Latter-day Faith Conference, Provo, Utah, United States

Selected Academic Presentations, continued ...

October 2021	'Breaking the Brotherly Covenant: Contextualizing Amos' Prophetic Call to Care for the Poor and Needy,' 50 th <i>Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium</i> , Provo, Utah, United States
March 2021	'Minor Fragments, Major Concerns: A Study of the Unprovenanced Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments Attributed to the Shorter Prophetic Writings of the Hebrew Bible,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Regional Meeting</i> , Virtual Meeting
March 2021	'Placing Hebrews amidst Studies of the New Testament Among Latter-day Saints,' 2021 <i>BYU New Testament Commentary Conference</i> , Virtual Meeting
November 2020	'What does Cairo have to do with Qumran? Studying the Textual History of the Hebrew Bible Minor Prophets through the Dead Sea Scrolls and Cairo Genizah,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , Boston, Massachusetts, United States
July 2020	'Rethinking the Twelve Prophets among the Dead Sea Scrolls,' <i>International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , Adelaide, Australia
July 2020	'Haggai at Qumran and in the Late Second Temple Period,' <i>International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , Adelaide, Australia
November 2019	'Joining the Bones of the Twelve Prophets with Textual Joints and Sinews: A Material and Textual Analysis of the Transitions in the Book of the Twelve from the Judaeen Desert,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , San Diego, California, United States
April 2019	'New Reconstructions of Two Manuscripts of the Twelve Prophets from Qumran and Thoughts on Nomenclature,' <i>Jonas C. Greenfield Scholar's Seminar</i> , Jerusalem, Israel
July 2018	'Unholy Bodies Navigating Sacred Places: Embodied Space and Communal Identity in the Dead Sea Scrolls,' <i>International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , Helsinki, Finland
June 2018	'Digging up the Bones of the Twelfth Minor Prophet: Determining the Textual Status of Malachi in the late Second Temple Period,' <i>Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting</i> , Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
November 2017	'At the Crossroads of Holiness: A Four-Fold Spatial Analysis of the Jewish Sanctuary in the Temple Scroll,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting</i> , Boston, Massachusetts, United States
October 2017	'For Their Prophet and Learning: Prophecy as a Contextualization of Exile and Restoration in the Old Testament Prophets,' 46 th <i>Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium</i> , Provo, Utah, United States
June 2017	'Re-Appropriating Mormonism to the World: A Spatial Analysis of the Mormon Pavilion at the 1964–65 World's Fair,' <i>Mormon History Association Annual Meeting</i> , St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Selected Academic Presentations, continued ...

June 2017	'Striking a Familiar Cord: An Exploration into the Use of Psalms-Like Material in the Dead Sea Scrolls,' <i>Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting</i> , Toronto, Ontario, Canada
March 2017	'Contested Space, Determined Place: A Spatial Analysis of the Sanctuary in the Dead Sea Scrolls Sectarian Manifesto,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Regional Meeting</i> , Raleigh, North Carolina, United States
July 2016	'Whoso Readeth It, Let Him Understand: The Use of Extra-Canonical Jewish Traditions in Hebrews,' <i>BYU New Testament Commentary Conference</i> , Provo, Utah, United States
June 2016	'Utilizing the Divine: An Analysis of the Divine Name as a Sectarian Marker in Qumran Literature,' <i>Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting</i> , Calgary, Alberta, Canada
March 2016	'You Shall Return to the Lord Your God: A Critical Reading of the Use of the Divine Name in 4Q375,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Regional Meeting</i> , Atlanta, Georgia, United States
March 2015	'Rewritten Scripture?: Insights into Quotations and Allusions of Biblical Texts in Ancient and Modern Times,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting</i> , Marylhurst, Oregon, United States
June 2014	'The Council of the Holy Ones: Heavenly Council Themes Portrayed in Councils at Qumran,' <i>Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting</i> , Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
March 2014	'Joseph Smith and the Pre-Babel Language,' <i>Society of Biblical Literature Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting</i> , Calgary, Alberta, Canada

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2021	<i>Florida State University Arts and Humanities Research and Creativity Award</i>
2020 – 2021	<i>Florida State University Fellows Society Dissertation Fellowship</i>
2020 – 2021	<i>Brigham Young University Religious Education Dissertation Research Grant</i>
2019 – 2020	<i>Brigham Young University Religious Education Dissertation Research Grant</i>
2018 – 2019	<i>Israel Council for Higher Education Fellowship for PhD Research</i>
2018 – 2019	<i>Orion Center for Dead Sea Scrolls Research Scholarship Award</i>
2018 – 2019	<i>Florida State University Graduate Student International Dissertation Research Award</i>

Selected Fellowships and Awards, continued ...

2018 – 2019	<i>Brigham Young University Religious Education Dissertation Research Grant</i>
2017	<i>Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Research Grant</i>
2014	<i>Canadian Research Chair in Dead Sea Scrolls Research Fellowship</i>
2014	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Pacific Northwest Region Best Graduate Student Essay Award</i>

ORGANIZATIONS & LEADERSHIP

2023–Present	Assistant Professor – Brigham Young University, Ancient Scripture
2021–2023	Religious Educator – Seminaries and Institutes of Religion, Bingham Seminary
2020 – 2021	Director – Tallahassee Institute of Religion
2020 – 2021	Coordinator for Development – Florida State University Fellows Society
2020	Participant – Wabash Center Teaching Seminar for Doctoral Students
2019 – 2023	Member – Society of Biblical Literature Professional Conduct Committee
2019	Panel Co-organizer – ‘Teaching All Students: Accessible Pedagogy,’ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
2018 – 2019	Chair – Society of Biblical Literature Student Advisory Board
2018	Panel Co-organizer – ‘Aposiopesis: Incomplete Sentences, Unfinished Thoughts, and Ideas that Sputtered,’ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
2017 – 2018	Vice-Chair – Society of Biblical Literature Student Advisory Board
2017	Panel Co-organizer – ‘Avoiding Deception: Forgeries, Fake News, and Unprovenanced Material in Religious Studies,’ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
2016 – 2017	Member – Society of Biblical Literature Student Advisory Board
2016	Event Organizer – Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium
2016	Participant – BYU New Testament Commentary Summer Seminar
2015 – 2018	Instructor – Tallahassee Institute of Religion
2015	Participant – BYU Maxwell Institute Summer Seminar on Latter-Saint Culture
2015	Event Organizer – Trinity Western University Graduate Student Symposium
2014 – 2015	Student Representative – Society of Biblical Literature Pacific Northwest Region
2013	Teacher – Merit Academy Seminary

Organizations and Leadership, continued ...

2012 – 2013 Teacher – Maple Mountain High School Seminary
2012 Teacher – Mapleton Junior High School Seminary

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Organization for Qumran Studies
Society of Biblical Literature
Canadian Society of Biblical Studies
Enoch Seminar

RESEARCH AREAS

- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Hebrew Bible Minor Prophets
- Intertextuality in Antique Literature
- Material Reconstruction of Fragmented Manuscripts
- Second Temple Judaism
- Early Christianity
- Formation of Canon
- Space and Place in Antiquity
- Dead Sea Scrolls in Modern Religious Practices

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

- Biblical Hebrew (Advanced)
- Qumran Hebrew (Advanced)
- Koine Greek (Advanced)
- Attic Greek (Intermediate)
- Aramaic (Intermediate)
- Syriac (Intermediate)
- Modern Hebrew (Intermediate)
- Latin (Novice)
- German (Reading)
- French (Reading)