

Joshua M. Matson

Assistant Professor – Department of Ancient Scripture and the Jerusalem Center
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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 (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University, 2024) [Forthcoming, November 2024]

"'The Lord has told me to ask the Latter-day Saints a question': Wilford Woodruff's Rhetoric on the Manifesto to the Cache Stake," *Latter-day Saint Eloquence: Two Centuries of Mormon Oratory*, eds. Ben Crosby and Isaac Richards (Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Press, 2025) [Forthcoming, February 2025]

"Rediscovering the Apocalyptic Nature of the Book of Mormon: Alma 45:9–19 as an Atypical Apocalypse," *Understanding the War Chapters in the Book of Mormon*, ed. Joseph M. Spencer (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University, 2025) [Forthcoming, March 2025]

"The Rise and Fall of King Solomon," *From Sinai through the United Monarchy: The Old Testament through the lens of the Restoration*, eds. Daniel L. Belnap and Aaron P. Schade (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University, 2025) [Forthcoming, April 2025]

"'Make me a participant in your words' (ALD 3:17): Re-Imagining the Prayer of Levi as a Prophetic Text in Light of Chronicles," *Proceedings of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Seminar on the Hebrew Bible and/as Second Temple Literature*, ed. Robert Jones, Christine Mitchell, and Andrew Perrin [Forthcoming, June 2027]

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 <i>BYU New Testament Commentary Conference</i> , 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 <i>BYU New Testament Commentary Conference</i> , 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
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

Selected Academic Presentations, continued ...

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,' <i>46th 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
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>
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

Organizations and Leadership, continued ...

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