

# Jason Robert Combs

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## EDUCATION

PhD University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — Religious Studies (2016),  
*Royster Fellow.*

Major Area: Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Minor Area: Religion and Culture

*Dissertation:* “Epiphanies in Second- and Third-Century Christian Literature: Discourse, Identity, and Divine Manifestations.”

MA Columbia University — Classics (2008).

Major Area: Greek

Minor Area: Latin

MAR Yale University Divinity School — Biblical Studies (2006),  
*Summa Cum Laude.*

Major Area: New Testament

Minor Area: Hebrew Bible

BA Brigham Young University — Near Eastern Studies (2001).

Major Area: Near Eastern Studies

Minor Area: Psychology

- Member, Classics Honors Society
- Co-founder and Vice President, Ancient Studies Club (*now* Students of the Ancient Near East)

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Baden-Württemberg Exchange Program for study at Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg, Germany (January – July 2006).

Classics Post-Baccalaureate Program, University of California at Los Angeles (2003).

## **R E S E A R C H**

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### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Tertullian's Dream-Visions: Divine Manifestations and Christian Identity in a Greco-Roman Context* — tentative title of this monograph.

“Shepherd of Hermas and the Christian Experience of Non-Christian Epiphany” in *Experiencing the Shepherd of Hermas*, ed. Angela Kim Harkins and Harry O. Maier, Ekstasis: Religious Experience from Antiquity to the Medieval Period (Berlin: de Gruyter Press, *Projected 2021*). (Submitted to editors.)

“Historical Criticism” in *Mormons and the Bible*, eds. Cory Crawford, Eric Eliason, and Taylor Petrey (Oxford: Oxford University Press) — Under Contract. (Submitted to editors.)

“The Narrative Fulfillment of Isaiah 6 in 3 Nephi 11” *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* — Forthcoming Fall 2020.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“The Polemical Origin of Luke 6.5D: Dating Codex Bezae’s Sabbath-Worker Agraphon,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 42 (2019): 162–184.

“Noncanonical Gospels” in *New Testament History, Culture, and Society: A Background to the Texts of the New Testament*, ed. Lincoln H. Blumell (Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2019), 322–340.

“‘Christ’ after the Apostles: The Humanity and Divinity of the Savior in the Second Century” in *“Thou Art the Christ, the Son of the Living God”: The Person and Work of Jesus in the New Testament — Sperry Symposium 2018*, ed. Eric Huntsman, Lincoln Blumell, and Tyler Griffin (Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2018), 303–334.

“From King Ahaz’s Sign to Christ Jesus: The ‘Fulfillment’ of Isaiah 7:14” in *Prophets and Prophecies of the Old Testament: Text and Context — Sperry Symposium 2017*, ed. Aaron Schade, Brian Hauglid, and Kerry Muhlestein (Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2017), 95–122.

“A Walking, Talking Cross: The Polymorphic Christology of the *Gospel of Peter*,” *Early Christianity* 5 (2014): 198–219.

“A Marriage-Gift of Part of a Monastery from Byzantine Egypt,” *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 48 (2011): 79–88.  
- Coauthored with Joseph G. Miller.

“A Ghost on the Water?: Understanding an Absurdity in Mark 6:49–50,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 127.2 (2008): 345–358.

## PRESENTATIONS — PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

“(En)gendering Christian Dreams: Tertullian, Authority, and a Visionary Woman in Carthage”  
International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford — Tertullian Session (August 2019).

“‘Eloi la... Elijah’?: Reading a Mondegreen in Mark 15:34–35.”  
AAR/SBL/ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Meeting at Creighton University, Omaha, NE (March 2019).

“The Shepherd of Hermas and the Problem of Non-Christian Epiphany.”  
• With response by Harry Maier (Vancouver School of Theology).  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Combined Session of Inventing Christianity and Religious Experience in Antiquity (November 2018).

“Soliciting Divine Manifestations: Proto-Orthodox Practices in the Late-Second and Early-Third Century CE.”  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Combined Session of Mysticism, Esotericism, and Gnosticism in Antiquity and Religious Experience in Antiquity (November 2018).

“Dreams/Visions among Early Third-Century Proto-Orthodox Christians: Experience at the Boundaries of Discourse.”  
• With response by Frances Flannery (James Madison University).  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Religious Experience in Antiquity (November 2017).

“Dreams of Divine Chastisement: The Origin and Influence of an Early Christian Dream-Type.”  
North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (May 2017).

“Dating the Sabbath-Worker Agraphon: The Fourth-Century Origin and Significance of Bezae-Luke 6.5.”  
AAR/SBL/ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Meeting at the University of Colorado Boulder (March 2017).

“Christ in the Form of a Young Man: An Early Christian Epiphany-Type.”  
*Disclosure, Inspiration, Epiphany: Divine Revelation in the Ancient Mediterranean*;  
Conference at King’s College, London (May 2016).

“Christophany as Ecclesiology: Christ Manifest as Apostle in the Apocryphal Acts.”  
International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford — Apostolic Apocrypha Session (August 2015).

“Reading Reversal in the Markan Passion: Psalm 22 as ‘Inverted Quotation’ in Mark 15.”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion — New Testament IV Session  
(March 2015).

“Dreaming Christian: Tertullian’s Epiphanies and the Construction of Pagan/Christian Identity.”

- With response by Stephanie Cobb (University of Richmond).  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Combined Session of Inventing  
Christianity and Contextualizing North African Christianity (November 2014).

“‘In the Eye of the Beholder’: Art and Epiphanies in Greek Novels and the Apocryphal Acts.”  
North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting — Christianity and Sophistic Culture  
in the Second and Third Centuries Session (May 2014).

“Identifying Dreams: Recognizing Jesus in Tertullian and the *Acts of Peter*.”

North Carolina Religious Studies Association — Ancient Mediterranean Session  
(November 2013).

“Constraining Christian Visions: The Problem of Polymorphy in the Apocryphal Acts.”

North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting — Second Century Christianities  
Session (May 2013).

“Dreams(?) Matter: Idol-Demons and Early Christian Oneiric Techniques.”

- With response by Steven Larson (Ohio Wesleyan University).  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Religious Competition in the Third  
Century CE: Interdisciplinary Approaches Section (November 2012).

“Exception as Power: Reading Agamben in the Apostolic Fathers.”

North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting — Church Leadership Session (May  
2012).

“Re-contextualizing the Walking, Talking Cross: Dualistic Christology in the *Gospel of Peter*.”

- Special session on the *Gospel of Peter*, including reviews of Paul Foster’s  
commentary.  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Christian Apocrypha Section  
(November 2011).

“Correcting the Commandment: The Effect of Early Christian Sabbath Polemic on the Text of  
Luke’s Gospel.”

- With response by Bill Warren (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary).  
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Sabbath in Text, Tradition and  
Theology Consultation (November 2010).

“Jewish ‘Fools’ and their Gentile Foil: Reading Comedy in Mark 15:34–39.”

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Synoptic Gospels Section (November 2010).

“Locating Luke 6.5D: Toward a Social Context for the Sabbath Worker.”

Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion — New Testament II Session (March 2010).

“‘They Thought it was a Ghost:’ Understanding an Absurdity in Mark 6:49–50.”

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Synoptic Gospels Section (November 2006).

“Roman Comedy and Pauline Humor: Rethinking the Metaphors of Slavery and Sons in Galatians 3.22–4.9.”

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting — Pauline Epistles Section (November 2005).

#### **PRESENTATIONS — INVITED RESPONSES**

“Repositioning Perpetua: A Response to Rebillard’s ‘Res gestas martyrum digerere.’”

Guest lecture of Eric Rebillard, “Res gestas martyrum digerere: North African Hagiography until the time of Augustine,” hosted by Duke University’s Center for Late Ancient Studies (March 2015).

#### **PRESENTATIONS — PUBLIC LECTURES**

“The Other Gospels: Exploring the History and Theology of New Testament Apocrypha.”

Invited fireside lecture—Aspen Grove, UT (July 2019).

“‘Becoming the Beloved Disciple’ Becoming Jesus: Reading Eric Huntsman with Origen of Alexandria.”

Invited lecture in honor of the publication of Eric Huntsman’s *Becoming the Beloved Disciple*, hosted by Writ & Vision, Provo, UT (January 2019).

“‘Christ’ after the Apostles: The Humanity and Divinity of the Savior in the Second Century”

“Thou Art the Christ, the Son of the Living God”: The Person and Work of Jesus in the New Testament — BYU Sperry Symposium 2018.

“The Discovery and Content of the Ancient Christian Nag Hammadi Library”

Monday Lecture —BYU Education Week 2018.

“After the Apostles: Christianity in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries A.D.”

Tuesday–Friday Series of Classes—BYU Education Week 2018.

“From King Ahaz’s Sign to Christ Jesus: The ‘Fulfillment’ of Isaiah 7:14”  
Prophets and Prophecies of the Old Testament: Text and Context — BYU Sperry  
Symposium 2017.

“New Directions in Biblical Studies”  
Keynote Address at the BYU Students of the Ancient Near East Symposium (March  
2017).

“Visions of Jesus: How to Dream like an Ancient Christian.”  
Guest Speaker at New Garden Friends Meeting, Greensboro, NC (April 2013).

“Sing to the Lord a New Song: How Early Christians Read a Jewish Prophet.”  
Invited lecture for the Mini-Conference, “Isaiah: A Prophet of Hope for Jews and  
Christians,” hosted by UNC’s Institute for the Arts and Humanities (November 2013).

“The ‘Fulfillment’ of the Beatitudes in Matthew, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and 3 Nephi”  
Sidney B. Sperry Symposium at Brigham Young University, UT (October 2010).

#### **AWARDS — RESEARCH AND TRAVEL**

Lovick P. Corn Dissertation Fellow, The Royster Society of Fellows, UNC (2014–2015).

Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Award, UNC (May 2014).

Hugh W. Nibley Fellowship, Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship (2009–2013).

Robert Miller Fund for Excellence in Religious Studies — Travel Award, UNC (2012).  
Mitteln des Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst Baden-Württemberg.  
Stipend for study at Heidelberg University (January–July 2006).

Graduate and Professional Student Senate Conference Travel Fund, Yale University (November  
2005).

Ezekiel H. Trowbridge Scholarship, Yale Divinity School (2005–2006).

Paul Wesley Chalfant Scholarship, Yale Divinity School (2004–2005).

#### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

Ancient: Greek (Classical and Koine), Latin, Hebrew, Syriac, Coptic (beginning).

Modern: German (conversational and reading), Spanish (conversational and reading),  
French (reading), Italian (reading).

## *TEACHING*

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### **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT — TEACHING**

Assistant Professor	2018– <i>current</i> — Department of Ancient Scripture, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
Visiting Assistant Professor	2016–2018 — Department of Ancient Scripture, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
Lecturer	2016 — Department of Religion and Philosophy, High Point University, High Point, NC.
Lecturer	2014 — Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
Part-Time Instructor	2013 — Department of Religious Studies, Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.
Teaching Fellow	2012–2014, 2016 — Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Online Instructor	2012, 2014, 2016 — Friday Center for Continuing Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Teaching Assistant	2008–2012 — Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Part-Time Faculty	2007 — Department of Ancient Scripture, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
Adjunct Instructor	2006–2007 — Department of Philosophy, Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT.  2006–2007 — Department of Philosophy and Humanities, Utah Valley State College ( <i>now</i> Utah Valley University) in Orem, UT.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE — INSTRUCTION AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT

### *BYU Courses Designed and Taught:*

- REL A 121 — Book of Mormon, I
- REL A 122 — Book of Mormon, II
- REL A 275 — Teachings & Doctrine of the Book of Mormon
- REL A 211 — New Testament: Gospels
- REL A 212 — New Testament: Acts–Revelation
- REL A 250 — Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel

### *Other Courses Designed and Taught:*

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Introduction to the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament
- Jesus in Myth, Tradition, and History (30–200CE)
- Birth of Christianity
- Religions of the World
- Ethics and Values

### *Online Courses Taught:*

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Birth of Christianity

### *Additional Courses Assisted:*

- Varieties of Early Christianity
- Introduction to Early Judaism
- Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period

## TEACHING AWARDS

Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Graduate Teaching Assistants 2012, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Awarded 26 April 2012).

*\* One of five selected university-wide to receive this most distinguished teaching award. Nominated by students, the University Committee on Teaching Awards reviews the nominees, collects additional information from Department Chairs, and recommends five winners to the Chancellor. The Tanner Award was established “to recognize excellence in inspirational teaching of undergraduate students, particularly first- and second-year students.”*



Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award 2011 (SUTASA), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Awarded 12 April 2011).

*\* One of nine selected among faculty and graduate students university-wide for this honor. It is awarded once annually “on the basis of demonstrated and consistent teaching excellence, success in positively affecting a broad spectrum of students both in and outside the classroom, and creation of a dynamic learning environment.”*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

#### *Brigham Young University*

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| Committee Chair      | Public Communications Advisory Committee, Religious Education (2020— <i>present</i> )                  |
| Organizing Committee | Seminar on Book of Mormon and Ethics, Maxwell Institute (2019— <i>present</i> )                        |
| Committee Chair      | Online Resources for Adjunct and Transfer Faculty Committee, Ancient Scripture (2019— <i>present</i> ) |
| Committee Member     | Visualizing Learning Committee, Religious Education (2019— <i>present</i> )                            |
| Steering Committee   | Late Ancient Religions Group, Maxwell Institute (2016— <i>present</i> ).                               |
| Committee Member     | Religious Education Undergraduate Student Symposium (2016–2019).                                       |

#### *Mormon Scholars Foundation*

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| Organizing Committee | Faith and Knowledge Conference for LDS Graduate Students in Religious Studies.<br>– Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C. February 2013. |
| General Chair        | Faith and Knowledge Conference for LDS Graduate Students in Religious Studies.<br>– Duke University, Durham, NC. February 2011.                 |

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Steering Committee Theory Reading Group – joint UNC-Duke (2011–2014).

Committee Member Graduate Student Teaching Committee (2012–2014).

Convener Christianity in Antiquity Colloquium – joint UNC-Duke (2009–2011, 2013–2014).

SBL-OSR On-campus Student Representative for the *Society of Biblical Literature* (2010–2014).

Summer Program Carolina Summer Reading Program for First-Year and Transfer Students  
Discussion Leader (2009–2012)

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Society of Biblical Literature (2004 – *Present*)

North American Patristics Society (2008 – *Present*)

American Academy of Religion (2012 – *Present*)