Colby Townsend

Colby Townsend is a first-year MA student in the Department of History, studying the ways religious individuals have composed texts that become standards, classics, or scripture for their communities.

His review of Michael Coogan’s *The Ten Commandments: A Short History of an Ancient Text* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015) was recently published in *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*.


A revision of his undergraduate honors thesis, in which he examines how the King James Version of Genesis 2-4 influenced the writing of the Book of Mormon, has been accepted for publication in the *Contemporary Studies in Scripture* series at Greg Kofford Books under the title *Eden in the Book of Mormon: Appropriation and Retelling of Genesis 2-4*.

These publications are part of Colby’s larger project to examine closely, from literary- and historical-critical perspectives, how the King James Bible influenced the composition of Joseph Smith’s religious literature.

Colby credits both the editors at these journals and the professors in the USU history department—especially Norman Jones and Philip Barlow—for helping him to refine these projects. Please join us in congratulating Colby on this wonderful news.