June 9th 2020 Update:

**Colby Townsend**, a graduate of our master’s program, won the Mormon History Association prize for best thesis this year, "Rewriting Eden with the Book of Mormon: Joseph Smith and the Reception of Genesis 1-6 in Early America". Congrats to Colby, who is heading out to Indiana for a PhD program in August 2020!

https://twitter.com/MormonHistAssoc/status/1269072010753175552/photo/1

2018 Article Highlight:
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.