

## Avram R. Shannon

303J Joseph Smith Building  
Brigham Young University  
Provo UT, 84606

Tel.: (801) 420-4090 : E-mail: avram\_shannon@byu.edu

### EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University** Columbus, OH  
PhD Near Eastern Languages and Cultures May 2015  
Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean  
Dissertation Title: *Other Peoples' Rituals: Tannaitic Portrayals of Graeco-Roman Ritual*  
(Advisor: Michael D. Swartz)
- Oxford University** Oxford, UK  
M.St. Jewish Studies November 2008
- Brigham Young University** Provo, UT  
B.A. Ancient Near Eastern Studies (*magna cum laude*) April 2007

### TEACHING

- Brigham Young University** Provo, UT  
**Assistant Professor** 2017–Present
- Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel
  - The Pearl of Great Price
  - Book of Mormon: 1 Nephi–Alma 29
  - Teachings and Doctrines of the Book of Mormon
  - The Old Testament: Genesis to 1 Samuel
- Brigham Young University** Provo, UT  
**Adjunct Instructor** 2015–2017
- Book of Mormon: 1 Nephi–Alma 29
  - The Pearl of Great Price
  - The Four Gospels
  - Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel
- The Ohio State University** Columbus, OH  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant (taught courses)** 2009–2015
- The Hebrew Bible in Translation
  - The Prophets
  - Mythology of Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt
  - Introduction to Jewish Studies

### PUBLICATIONS

- “Rituals, Magic, and Others in Tannaitic Literature: The Case of the Customs of the Amorites,” in *Seek Ye Words of Wisdom: Studies in the Book of Mormon, Bible, and Temple: In Honor of Stephen D. Ricks*, eds. Donald W. Parry, Gaye Strathearn, and Shon Hopkin (Provo, UT: The Interpreter Foundation, 2020), 345–365.
- With Kerry M. Muhlstein and Joshua M. Sears. “New and Everlasting: The Relationship between Gospel Covenants in History,” *Religious Educator* 21:2 (2020): 21–40.

- “‘Each Man According to His Blessing’: The Blessing of Reuben and Issachar in Genesis Rabbah.” In *Torah is a Hidden Treasure*, eds. Rivka Ulmer and W. David Nelson (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2019), 7–25.
- “The *Megolish* and the Tannaitic Encoding of Non-Jewish Ritual.” In *The Oral and the Textual in Jewish Tradition and Jewish Education*. Volume 15 of *Studies in Jewish Education*, eds. Jonathan Cohen, Matt Goldish, and Barry Holtz (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2019), 24–43.
- “Rabbinic Literature and the New Testament.” In *New Testament History, Culture, and Society*, ed. Lincoln Blumell (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, 2019), 122–140.
- “God of Law/Law of God: The Law of Moses in Alma’s Teachings on Justice and Mercy.” In *Give Ear to My Words: Text and Context of Alma 36–42*, eds. Kerry M. Hull, Nicholas J. Frederick, and Hank Smith (Provo and Salt Lake City, UT: Religious Studies Center and Deseret Book, 2019), 129–154.
- “Torah in the Mouth: An Introduction to the Jewish Oral Law,” *Religious Educator* 19/1 (2018)
- “Making Ritual Strange: The Temple Cult as the Foundation for Tannaitic Discourse on Idolatry,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 24/4 (2017): 339–355
- “Mormons and Midrash: On the Composition of Expansive Interpretation in *Genesis Rabbah* and the Book of Moses,” *BYU Studies Quarterly* 54 (2015): 15–34.
- “‘Come Near Unto Me’: Guarded Space and Its Mediators in the Jerusalem Temple,” in *Ascending the Mountain of the Lord: Temple, Praise, and Worship in the Old Testament: The 42nd Annual Brigham Young University Sidney B. Sperry Symposium*. (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 2013).

#### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- “Sacrilige and Consecration in Early Rabbinic Judaism.” In *Temple on Mt. Zion Conference Proceedings* (Forthcoming)
- “Book of Mormon Priesthood from Lehi to Alma.” (Forthcoming. Accepted at *Brigham Young University Studies Quarterly*)
- 

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- “Temple and Authority: A Review Essay.” Review of Naftali Cohn, *The Memory of the Temple and the Making of the Rabbis*. *BYU Studies Quarterly* 57:1 (2018): 206–212.
- Review of Bradley Kramer, *Beholding the Tree of Life: A Rabbinic Approach to the Book of Mormon*. *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 26 (2017): 237–244
- Review of David C. Sim and James S. McLaren, *Attitudes to Gentiles in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* in *Review of Biblical Literature*. Published in *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 20, 2015)

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Tannaitic Portrayals of Graeco-Roman Ritual* (monograph, under revision)
- *The Law of Moses in the Book of Mormon* (monograph, to be sent to Religious Studies Center, 1st Q 2020)
- A project looking at cosmology in Abraham 3.
- *How the Old Testament Came to Be* (monograph, writing with Joshua M. Sears)
- “The Evolution of the Angel of Death in Ancient Judaism” (writing with Jared Ludlow, under formative review by a colleague in Jewish Studies)
- Invited article on anti-Semitism

#### PRESENTATIONS

- “‘Who Measured the Heavens?’: The Rabbinic Sages and the Battle for the Control of the Heavens.” Presented in Religious Competition Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of

- Biblical Literature in San Diego, CA (November 23, 2019).
- “‘Under Every Green Tree’: Votive Offerings in Mishnah and Tosefta Avodah Zarah.” Presenting in the Society for Mediterranean Religions/Graeco-Roman Religions Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, CA (November 24, 2019).
  - “God of Law/Law of God: The Law of Moses in Alma’s Teachings on Justice and Mercy.” Presented at the 2019 Sidney B. Sperry Symposium in Provo, UT (October 26, 2019).
  - “How Hebraic is Hebrews?: ‘Jewish Christianity’ and the Restoration.” Presented at the New Testament Commentary Conference, “Hebrews: The Sacred Powers of Jesus, the Great High Priest” in Provo, UT (October 12, 2019).
  - “Temple and Atonement in the Book of Mormon: A Case for Limited Re-contextualization.” Presented at the Book of Mormon Studies Association Conference in Logan, UT (October 11, 2019).
  - “Number the Stars’: Rabbinic Cosmology at the Intersection of Greek and Biblical Thought.” Presented at the the Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Regional SBL in Denver, CO (March 29–30, 2019).
  - “‘To Each Man His Blessing’: The Twelve Tribes in Genesis Rabbah.” Presented in the Midrash Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver, CO (November 19, 2018).
  - “Sacrifice and Consecration in Early Rabbinic Judaism.” Presented at the 2018 Temple on Mt. Zion Conference in Provo, UT (November 10, 2018).
  - “A Prophet Like Moses: Jesus Christ as Halakhic Master.” Presented at the 2018 Sidney B. Sperry Symposium in Provo, UT (October 27, 2018).
  - “Book of Mormon Priesthood from Lehi to Alma.” Presented at the Book of Mormon Studies Association Conference in Logan, UT (October 12, 2018).
  - “From Cuth to Issachar: Samaritans in Rabbinic Literature.” Presented at the Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Regional SBL in Provo, UT (March 16–17, 2018).
  - “‘Peculiar to the Worship of Heaven’: Mekhilta and the Discourse on Images and Idolatry.” Presented in the Midrash Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Boston, MA (November 20, 2017).
  - “‘Every Man According to His Blessing’: Rabbinic Mythmaking and the Twelve Tribes of Israel.” Presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in San Diego, CA (December 20–22, 2016).
  - “‘High Priest Over the Temple of God’: Jesus, Anointings, and Temple Theology.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Mormon Theology and Philosophy in Provo, UT (October 13–15, 2016)
  - “‘I Have Sworn’: Ancient Exegesis and the Epistle to the Hebrews.” Presented at the Fourth Annual BYU New Testament Commentary Conference in Provo, UT (July 29, 2016)
  - “‘Hear, O Sons of Jacob’: The Twelve Tribes in Rabbinic Judaism.” Presented at the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional SBL in Denver, CO (April 1, 2016)
  - “‘Making Ritual Strange: The Temple Cult as the Foundation for Tannaitic Discourse on Idolatry.’” Presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston, MA (December 13–December 15, 2015).
  - “‘The Term ‘Apostle’: Issues in Using Rabbinic Sources in New Testament Studies.’” Presented at Third Annual BYU New Testament Commentary Conference in Provo, UT (July 31, 2015)
  - “‘Strange Ritual: Tannaitic Coding of Non-Jewish Ritual.’” Presented at the Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction Conference in Jerusalem (December 28–30, 2014)
  - “‘Mormons and Midrash: Narrative Expansion as Interpretation in Mormonism and Early Judaism.’” Presented in the Latter-day Saints and the Bible Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, CA (November 22, 2014).
  - “‘Come Near Unto Me’: Guarded Space and Its Mediators in the Jerusalem Temple.” Presented

## Shannon 4

- at the 2013 Sidney B. Sperry Symposium in Provo, UT (October 26, 2013)
- “‘And Enoch Walked With God’: Deification and Immortalization in Late Antique Judaism.” Presented in the Rabbinic Judaism Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Chicago, Illinois (November 19, 2012)
- “So Let it Be Written, So Let it Be Done: Performative Speech in Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible.” Presented in the Egyptology and the Bible Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco, California (November 19, 2011)
- “More Subtle Than Any Other Beast: The Affordances of the Serpent in Genesis 3.” Presented in the Mythology Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco, California (November 19, 2011)
- “Everlasting Covenant: Hints of the 'New' Law in the Old Testament.” presented at the 2010 Sidney B. Sperry Symposium in Provo, Utah (October 30, 2010)

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

<b>Brigham Young University</b>	Provo, UT
Sperry Symposium Committee Chair	Summer 2020–Present
Sperry Symposium Committee Member 2020	Fall 2019–Summer
Student Symposium Committee Member	Fall 2019–Present
Faculty Forum Committee Member	Fall 2017–Winter 2018
REL A 250 Inservice Coordinator	Winter 2018–Fall 2019
Faculty Center Writing Group Leader	Winter 2018–Present

## OTHER SKILLS

### Language Proficiency

- Mishnaic and Rabbinic Hebrew- Advanced
- Biblical Hebrew- Advanced
- Modern Hebrew- Intermediate (Level Gimel in the Hebrew University Ulpan)
- Aramaic (Biblical, Jewish Palestinian, Syriac)- Intermediate
- Classical Greek- Intermediate
- Phoenician- Intermediate
- Akkadian- Intermediate
- Hieroglyphic Egyptian- Intermediate
- Coptic- Basic
- Latin- Basic
- Arabic- Basic (primarily for comparative purposes)
- French- Reading Knowledge
- German- Reading Knowledge

Shannon 5

**Other Experience**

- Adjunct Research Assistant, Brigham Young University Studies
- BYU New Testament Commentary Summer Seminar
- Research Assistant for Michael D. Swartz, The Ohio State University
- Cataloguer, Oxford University Press Out of Print Library.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- The Society of Biblical Literature
- Association for Jewish Studies
- Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions