# **Derek S. Dodson**

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2006

Area: Biblical Studies

Concentration: New Testament

Dissertation: “Reading Dreams: An Audience-Critical Approach to the

Dreams in the Gospel of Matthew”

Dissertation Committee: Charles H. Talbert (advisor), Mikeal C. Parsons,

and Jeffrey S. Hamilton

M.Div. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, 1993

B.A. Mobile College, Mobile, Alabama, 1989

Majors: Religion and Sociology

## TEACHING & University EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2013 – present

Lecturer, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2007 - 2013

Adjunct Instructor, George W. Truett Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2006- 2007

Adjunct Instructor, School of Christian Studies, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas, 2004-2007

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2004-2006

Wabash Teaching Fellow, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2003-2004

COURSES TAUGHT

The Christian Scriptures (Baylor University)

An introduction to the Old and New Testaments (their contents, historical backgrounds, and major themes) and strategies for interpreting the Bible.

Introduction to the New Testament (Baylor University; Univ. of Mary Hardin-Baylor)

An introduction to the New Testament (its contents, historical backgrounds, and major themes) and strategies for its interpretation.

The Christian Heritage (Baylor University)

An introduction to Christian life and thought, from the early church to the present, through an examination of great texts with an emphasis on Christian doctrine, ethics, witness and institutions.

New Testament Greek I and II (Truett Seminary, Baylor University)

A study of the language and literature of the Greek New Testament with attention to vocabulary, grammar, and syntax through the reading of selected texts.

Topics in New Testament Studies: The Sermon on the Mount (Baylor University)

A study of the so-called “Sermon on the Mount” (Matt 5-7) in its historical-cultural and literary-rhetorical contexts along with a corollary consideration of the use of the Bible in Christian ethics.

Examined Life II: Biblical Heritage and Contemporary Ethical Issues (Baylor University)

An in-depth study of selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and examination of the approaches and resources used today and throughout Christian history in such study. Biblical perspectives on such ethical issues as human rights, environmental concerns and resource allocation are examined to provide a bridge between the literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary human experience and decision making.

Interpreting the New Testament (Baylor University)

Analysis of literature of the New Testament, examining various methodologies, both historical and contemporary, in New Testament study. Attention will be given to relevant bibliography, leading scholars, and major issues in current New Testament study

Topics in New Testament Studies: The Book of Revelation (Baylor University)

A study of Revelation in its historical-cultural and literary-rhetorical contexts, especially in its relation to the larger literary milieu of apocalyptic literature.

Jesus and the Gospels (Baylor University)

A study of the portrayal of Jesus in the New Testament Gospels and an introduction to the question of "the historical Jesus."

Senior Seminar: The Death of the Messiah (Baylor University)

A study of the passion narratives in the four canonical Gospels with particular attention to their literary shape and theological function. This study also considers the historical context of Jesus’ crucifixion as well as its theological significance as formulated by early Christianity.

## PUBLICATIONS & Presentations

*Books*

*Introducing the Christian Scriptures*. Co-authored with W.H. Bellinger, Jr., and Andrew E. Arterbury. Baker Academic Press, 2014.

*Reading Dreams: An Audience-Critical Approach to the Dreams in the Gospel of*

*Matthew* . Library of New Testament Studies 397. London: T & T Clark, 2009.

*Articles & Book Reviews*

“Dream Magic: The Dream of Pilate’s Wife and the Accusation of Magic in the Acts of Pilate.” Pages 21-30 in *Gelitten - Gestorben – Auferstanden: Passions- und Ostertraditionen im antiken Christentum.* Edited by Tobias Nicklas, Andreas Merkt, and Joseph Verheyden. Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament II, 273. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010.

Review of *The Shape of the Gospel: New Testament Essays* by Robert C. Tannehill in *Review of Biblical Literature*, Dec. 2007.

“Philo’s *De somniis* in the Context of Ancient Dream Theories and Classifications.” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 30 (2003): 299-312.

“Dreams, the Ancient Novels, and the Gospel of Matthew: An Intertextual Study.” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 29 (2002): 39-52.

*Conference Papers*

“The Encomiastic Function of the ‘Fulfillment Quotations’ in Matthew 1-2.” Paper presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Irving, Texas, March 12, 2016.

“Dream-Visions: Epiphanic Contributions to the Plot Structure of Acts.” Paper

presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Irving, Texas, March 5, 2011.

“Dream Magic: The Dream of Pilate’s Wife and the Accusation of Magic in the *Acts of Pilate*.” Paper presented for the Christian Apocrypha Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, California, November, 2007.

“Scripting Dreams: The Gospel of Matthew’s Use of a Literary Convention.” Paper presented for the Matthew Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, California, November, 2007.

“The Romance of Abraham and Sarah: Novelistic Features in the *Apocryphon of Genesis*.” Paper presented for the Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative Group, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, Texas, November, 2004.

“No Exorcisms in the Gospel of John? John 12:31 as the Johannine Exorcism.” Paper presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Irving, Texas, March 2003.

Response paper to Dennis R. MacDonald’s “Iliad 2 and Acts 10-11: Imitations of Homer in the Visions of Cornelius and Peter” in the Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative Group, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, Colorado, November, 2001.

*Other Academic Projects*

Produced pedagogical materials for the website of Baker Academic’s *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (2009) by Mark Allan Powell (www.introducingnt.com).

Translation of the *Epistola catholica* in D. H. Williams’s *Tradition, Scripture, and Interpretation: A Sourcebook of the Ancient Church* (Baker Academic, 2006), p. 117 under heading “From the Council of Alexandria (362)”.

RESEARCH Interests

* Reading the New Testament—especially the Gospels and Acts—in its ancient literary and cultural context, with particular attention to how an ancient audience would “make sense” of these texts given the literary, rhetorical, and cultural conventions of its time.
* Examining how the various texts of the New Testament, especially narrative texts, reflect the larger literary-rhetorical praxes of the Greco-Roman world.
* Applying my previous research on dreams and visions to the book of Acts.

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

1998 - 2001 Pastor, Speegleville Baptist Church, Waco, Texas

1995 - 1998 Pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Waco, Texas

1992 - 1995 Pastor, MuldraughBaptistChurch, Muldraugh, Kentucky

1990 - 1992 Associate Pastor with Youth, Muldraugh Baptist Church, Muldraugh, Kentucky

Ordination: Muldraugh Baptist Church, Muldraugh, Kentucky, July 19, 1992

Licensed to Ministry: Fairhaven Baptist Church, Demopolis, Alabama, April 10, 1985

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

Society of Biblical Literature

Southwest Commission on Religious Studies

Program chair for Theta Alpha Kappa session of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, 2010 - present