

Obituary for Jeffrey Dale Baylor University

With great sorrow, we note the passing of one of our graduate students in the Department of Religion — Jeff Dale. Jeff had just completed his third year of Ph.D. work in New Testament studies, passing his Prelim exams and preparing his dissertation proposal. He loved climbing mountains and had set himself the goal of reaching the summit of Mount Jefferson (Oregon) this summer before returning to his Ph.D. research. (For a video of him reaching the summit of Mount Jefferson in a 2017 climb, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo-EhEk8A6g>).



Unfortunately it appears that he fell near the summit of that mountain on Thursday, resulting in his untimely and tragic death.

He is survived by his mother and father (Melanie and Bob), and by two siblings.

Having completed an MTS degree at Emory University and a BA at Andrews University, Jeff was eager to write a Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Microcosm of God’s Final Victory: Paul’s Vision in 1 Corinthians for a Community amid Cosmic Conflict in Greco-Roman Context.” In that dissertation, he was going to look at Paul’s presentation of “Death” as a cosmic power in God’s good world. Although that work will not be completed, one of his research papers will be published next year, entitled “Experiencing the Renewed Cosmos: The Significance of the Celestial Ceiling in the Baptistery at Dura-Europos.” That article will serve as a monument to the research trajectory that he was on.

Jeff remained active in the Seventh Day Adventist tradition while undertaking his graduate work in Waco. We saw him to have a path forward that would have placed him in important positions of responsibility and significance. We will continue to remember him as a beloved colleague whose friendship we were blessed to cherish for a while.

Baylor University New Testament Graduate Faculty

Bruce Longenecker, Kelly Iverson, Lidija Novakovic, Mikeal Parsons, Beverly Gaventa