

## SIMILARITIES *BETWEEN* ISLAM & MORMONISM

As will be demonstrated via the following table, the list of comparisons between Islam and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is quite impressive. How much of this is coincidence, how much is purposeful, or to what extent comparable demonic influence may be the cause, we cannot say—but the similarities are intriguing, to say the least. Joseph Smith was aware of Islam, and must have been at least somewhat familiar with it. We do know that in Nauvoo the religion of Islam was listed as a protected belief system, whose followers were allowed “freedom of religion” in the Mormon city.<sup>1</sup> We also know that some Mormon leaders looked on Islam with favor. For instance, in 1855 LDS Apostles George A. Smith and Parley Pratt delivered speeches in which they asserted that Islam had been raised up by God to “scourge” apostate Christianity and to aid in stopping the spread of idolatry.<sup>2</sup>

	<b>Islam</b>	<b>LDS</b>
<b>Origins</b>		
<b>1</b>	Muhammad supposedly received repeated visitations from an angel (“Gabriel”).	Joseph Smith supposedly received repeated visitations from an angel (“Moroni”).
<b>2</b>	These angelic visitations were also accompanied by visions and revelations.	These angelic visitations were also accompanied by visions and revelations.
<b>3</b>	Muhammad was basically unschooled, probably illiterate. This has been used as evidence that he could not have composed such a complex work as the Quran without divine aid. <sup>3</sup>	Joseph Smith was basically unschooled, though not illiterate. This has been used as evidence that he could not have composed such a complex work as the Book of Mormon without divine aid.
<b>4</b>	Muhammad discussed religious ideas with Jews and Christians, but rejected them as being corrupt and false. He was told that all the various sects were wrong (see Sura 19).	Smith was told in his “First Vision” that all churches and creeds were false, and an “abomination” to God. He was instructed to join none of them.
<b>5</b>	Muhammad’s views were influenced by the sects and heresies present in his environment, e.g., Nestorianism, Monophysites, and Ebionite “Christians.”	Smith’s views were influenced by the sects and heresies present in his environment, e.g., British Israelism, Restoration theology, various theories about the origins of the American Indian, and Freemasonry.
<b>6</b>	Muhammad’s reaction to the “angelic” encounter was to question whether it might be demonic. He also exhibited behaviors that seem to indicate demonic influence.	When Joseph Smith first went to the famous grove where the First Vision occurred, he experienced a powerful, oppressive, demonic attack. This was then followed by his “divine” visitation.

7	Muhammad was uncertain about his revelations. He was encouraged to accept them as being from God by his wife, Khadijah.	Mormon history records that some of the earliest and strongest for Smith and his revelations, and the translation of the Book of Mormon, came from his mother, Lucy Mack Smith. <sup>4</sup>
8	Muhammad's first convert was his wife, Khadijah. He early converted close family and associates.	Smith's first converts were his family. His father became patriarch of the church, and his brothers were early leaders.
9	Muhammad was rejected in his home town of Mecca, and forced to flee to another city, Yathrib (Medina).	Smith was rejected in his home town of Palmyra, NY and forced to move to Kirtland, OH. This was the first of a series of flights following scandal & trouble.

## The Scriptures

10	Muhammad was told by Gabriel to "Recite!" Then the angel dictated to him the very words of Allah, as contained in the heavenly record of God's word, the so-called "Mother of the Book." This dictation became the Quran.	Smith was given supernatural instruments (the Urim and Thummim) to translate the Golden Plates. Using these, Smith dictated the actual words of God verbatim. This dictation became the Book of Mormon.
11	The source of the Quran was a heavenly record of Allah's word known as the "Mother of the Book."	The Golden Plates were divinely inspired, and when Smith was finished translating them, the angel Moroni removed the record to heaven.
12	Muhammad's new scriptures rely heavily on Biblical allusions and references, but with his own twisted view of the Bible.	Smith's new scriptures rely heavily on Biblical allusions and references, but with his own twisted view of the Bible.
13	Muhammad taught that the Bible was true Scripture, but that it had been corrupted by Jews and Christians, and it contained errors. These doctrinal errors were corrected by the Quran.	Joseph Smith taught that the Bible was the "word of God as far as it is translated correctly." <sup>5</sup> The Bible contains errors, which Smith attempted to rectify in his <i>Inspired Version</i> , as well as through other writings.
14	Muhammad taught the Quran is the most perfect of all books, and supersedes the Bible in pure doctrine and importance.	Joseph Smith taught the Book of Mormon is the most perfect of all books, and supersedes the Bible in pure doctrine and importance. Smith called the Book of Mormon "the most correct of any book on the earth" <sup>6</sup> and that it contained the fullness of the everlasting Gospel.

15	Muhammad's revelations supersede all previous revelations from God.	Smith's revelations supersede all previous revelations from God. Indeed, this is still true for Mormon "prophets." It is said, "a living prophet is more important to us than the 'standard works'" (i.e., the Mormon Scriptures). <sup>7</sup>
16	Islam and the Quran teach the principle of abrogation—essentially asserting that Allah can change his mind. Consequently, revelation is not static, but flexible and changing, even in the Quran itself.	Smith changed his doctrine many times, e.g., on polygamy. Revelation was flexible and fluid, changing as needed. LDS doctrine and revelation has repeatedly changed to meet expedient circumstances, e.g. the 1890 Manifesto on polygamy and the 1978 revelation concerning blacks and the priesthood.
17	When Muhammad uttered his supposed revelations from God, they were in the third person, even when referring to himself. Thus, giving the appearance that God was directly speaking through him.	When Joseph Smith uttered his supposed revelations from God, they were in the third person, even when referring to himself. Thus, giving the appearance that God was directly speaking through him.
18	Muhammad often received very direct revelations concerning his friends and enemies. The revelations were tailor made for his personal needs. E.g., note Suras 66 and 111.	Smith often received very direct revelations concerning his friends and enemies. The revelations were tailor made for his personal needs. E.g., note: D & C 3, 47, and 64:15-32.
19	The first caliph issued a call for all copies of Quranic material to be gathered together and compiled into one official Quran. However, there were some writings which were rejected and ultimately burned. Thus, some original "scripture" has been lost.	When Joseph Smith first began to translate the golden plates, he entrusted these to Oliver Cowdery. However, they were lost. These particular portions of the Book of Mormon were never translated again. Thus, some original "scripture" has been lost.
20	Muhammad claimed that the Quran was the pure, unadulterated, directly dictated word of God. Yet, there several versions of the Quran in the beginning, and there were revisions before an authorized manuscript was presented as authoritative. <sup>8</sup>	Smith claimed that the Book of Mormon was the pure, unadulterated, directly dictated word of God. Yet, over the years there have been over 4000 revisions from the first printing in 1830 to the present edition of the Book of Mormon. <sup>9</sup>
21	After the death of the Prophet, additions to Islamic teaching came through the recording of the Hadith.	After the death of the Prophet, additions to LDS teaching came through revelations given to the President of the Church.

## Sacred History

22	The importance of a connection to Abraham is strong in Islam. Ishmael's being a son of Abraham, and legends about Abraham abound in Islam.	The importance of a connection to Abraham is strong in Mormonism. One of the new scriptures that Joseph Smith translated is the Book of Abraham, now a part of the LDS canon and found in The Pearl of Great Price.
23	Muhammad sought to change sacred history and geography. For instance, he asserted that Abraham's taking Isaac for sacrifice occurred in Arabia, not Canaan.	Joseph Smith sought to change sacred history and geography. For instance, he said that the Garden of Eden was in Missouri, not the Middle East.
24	Muhammad established a new holy city—Mecca instead of Jerusalem.	Smith established a new holy city—Independence, Missouri instead of Jerusalem. (This will be the site of the New Jerusalem.)
25	Muhammad revised standard biblical exegesis of history and genealogy. Islamic teaching maintains that Ishmael was the child of promise and the blessed seed of Abraham, and thus the Arabs are the heirs of God's promises regarding the Holy Land.	Smith revised standard biblical exegesis of history and genealogy. LDS teaching maintains that the Mormons are the true children of Israel, and heirs of the God's promises to the children of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> All non-LDS people are "Gentiles."
26	After the Prophet's death, the faith was divided over the issue of authority. The majority followed a successor to the Prophet, i.e. the Caliph. A minority believed that the only legitimate authority was someone from the Prophet's family. Thus was born the division between Sunni and Shia Islam.	After the Prophet's death, the faith was divided over the issue of authority. The majority followed a successor to the Prophet, i.e. one of the Apostles (Brigham Young). A minority believed that the only legitimate authority was someone from the Prophet's family. Thus was born the division between the LDS Church of Utah and the Reorganized LDS Church (now called the Community of Christ).

## Doctrine

27	The basic "creed" of Islam is enunciated through the <i>Shahadah</i> . This is the declaration that "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet." Basic Islamic belief focuses on the prophet.	The basic "creed" of Mormonism is found in the "Testimony" that an LDS member will "bear." This testimony asserts faith in the Book of Mormon as the word of God, and Joseph Smith as the prophet of God. Basic Mormon belief focuses on the prophet.
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28	Muhammad taught that Christianity was originally a true faith of God, but had been corrupted by men. He saw his prophetic role as reestablishing or restoring the true faith.	Joseph Smith taught that Christianity was originally a true faith of God, but had been corrupted by men. He saw his prophetic role as reestablishing or restoring the true faith.
29	Muhammad redefined the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. To him, the Trinity was God, Jesus and Mary.	Joseph Smith redefined the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. To him, the Trinity consists of three separate and divine personages, Father, Son and Spirit.
30	Islamic theology teaches that everyone is born a Muslim. People are diverted from their true natures by external influences.	LDS theology teaches that everyone is born from the First Estate, the Mormon abode of preexistent spirits. Thus, everyone essentially enters the world with a Mormon nature, but is diverted by external influences.
31	The Quran asserts that Adam and Hawah (Eve) were created in Paradise, and then came to the earth. <sup>11</sup>	Mormonism teaches that Adam and Eve, along with everyone else, first lived as spirits in the heavenly First Estate, and then come to earth.
32	The Quran teaches that there was a great council in heaven before the creation of Adam. God outlined his plan for Man to the angels, created Adam and commanded the angels to do obeisance. Iblis rejected this plan and became the devil. <sup>12</sup>	The Mormon Scriptures teach that there was a great council in heaven, on the planet Kolob, where God outlines his plan for Mankind before the other gods and spirits. Lucifer rejected this plan and became the devil.
33	Islam denies the concept of original sin. <sup>13</sup>	LDS theology rejects the concept of original sin. <sup>14</sup>
34	Islam is essentially a works based religion.	Mormonism is essentially a works based religion.
35	Muhammad did not have a very high opinion of women—which is evident today in Islam. Islamic tradition credits Muhammad with teaching that a wife's salvation was dependent upon pleasing her husband. <sup>15</sup>	Smith did not have a very high opinion of women—a constant theme in the LDS church. LDS teaching asserts that a woman can only be exalted in the Celestial Kingdom if she is sealed to a Mormon husband. Early LDS leaders taught that women could only be resurrected through the agency of their husbands. <sup>16</sup>
36	The Quran pictures Paradise as a place where good, faithful Muslim warriors enjoy the sensual pleasures of the <i>houris</i> .	LDS theology teaches that in heaven good, faithful Mormon men will enjoy the sensual pleasures of multiple spiritual wives.

37	Certain Hadiths teach that execution should occur in the case of three types of sin: Murder, adultery and apostasy. <sup>17</sup>	Brigham Young taught that blood atonement (execution) was required for murder, adultery and apostasy.
38	Islamic teaching makes reference to a multiplicity of heavens—popularly reckoned to be seven. <sup>18</sup> However, traditional Muslim sources state that there are 8 levels. <sup>19</sup>	LDS teaching asserts that there is a multiplicity of heavens—three degrees of glory, to be exact.
39	The Quran teaches that Islam is exclusively the true religion of God.	The LDS church teaches that Mormonism is exclusively the true religion of God.

## Morals and Values

40	Muhammad practiced polygamy.	Joseph Smith received several revelations permitting the practice of polygamy (e.g., see D & C 132). Though kept secret, plural marriage was probably practiced by Smith as early as 1830. <sup>20</sup>
41	Muhammad seems to have especially liked young brides. Several of his wives were teens when he married them. One girl became his wife at the age of six! <sup>21</sup>	Many of Smith's plural wives were young, quite a few were teenagers. <sup>22</sup>
42	There is a strong family emphasis in Islam. The honor of the family must be preserved, even to the point of killing anyone who violates this honor.	There is a strong family emphasis in Mormonism. The honor of the family must be preserved, even to the point of shunning and ostracizing anyone who violates this honor.
43	The concept of the <i>Umma</i> , the Muslim community of faith, is a key ingredient in the Islamic belief system.	The concept of the <i>Saints</i> or the <i>Gathering of Zion</i> , the Mormon community of faith, is a key ingredient in the LDS belief system.
44	There is a form of lay clergy, in which imams or sheiks are not necessarily required to have any formal religious training.	There is a form of lay clergy, in which elders, bishops, stake presidents, even general officials are not necessarily required to have any formal religious training.
45	Muhammad taught that it is okay to lie and deceive if it is done for the cause of Islam. <sup>23</sup> This is the doctrine of <i>taqiyya</i> .	Joseph Smith taught that it is okay to lie and deceive if it is done for the cause of Mormonism. <sup>24</sup>
46	Muslims have (officially) strong views on certain moral issues, such as women dressing modestly and not consuming alcohol.	Mormons have (officially) strong views on certain moral issues, such as dressing modestly and not consuming alcohol. Note the Word of Wisdom.

## The Prophet

47	Though treated with awe befitting a Messianic figure, Muhammad is most commonly referred to as “the Prophet.”	Though treated with awe befitting a Messianic figure, Joseph is most commonly referred to as “the Prophet.”
48	Muhammad is revered as history’s greatest Prophet and Apostle of God. To speak against Muhammad is considered blasphemy, and is an offense that merits death. Cf. Salman Rushdie and <i>The Satanic Verses</i> .	Smith is revered as history’s greatest Prophet and spokesman for God. He is viewed with almost godlike reverence. During the Kingdom of Deseret period, speaking against the Prophet meant death.
49	Muhammad considered himself to function in the role of prophet, following in the tradition of previous prophets such as Adam, Enoch, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.	Smith considered himself to function in the role of prophet, following in the tradition of previous prophets. Indeed, his prophetic role was validated by visits from many such prophets, e.g., Moses, Elijah, and John the Baptist.
50	Muhammad is considered the greatest prophet and apostle of Allah—superior to all previous prophets. Jesus, although an apostle/prophet of God, is inferior to Muhammad.	Joseph Smith is considered to be the premier prophet of all history. Although lip service is given to Jesus as greater than Smith, in actual practice Joseph Smith takes central place in Mormon faith, even more important than Christ. <sup>25</sup> So much so that early Mormon leaders even went so far as to teach that Smith would have a key role in the Last Judgment. <sup>26</sup>
51	The Quran teaches that the previous scriptures (the Bible) predicted the coming of the Prophet (Muhammad).	Mormonism teaches that the previous scriptures (the Bible) predicted the coming of the Prophet (Joseph Smith).

## A Kingdom

52	Muhammad had political as well as spiritual ambitions. He became the ruler of virtually all of Arabia. Even today, Islam is as much a political system as a religious one.	Joseph Smith had political as well as spiritual ambitions. He attempted to run for President. Even today, the LDS church is very involved in politics. Mormons believe that someday there will be a Constitutional crisis which will allow the LDS church to intervene and save the USA, and then subsequently control the government.
53	Muhammad established his own theocratic city-state after being asked to take over the rule of Medina.	Joseph Smith established his own theocratic city-state after establishing the city of Nauvoo in Illinois.

54	Muhammad established his own dominion in Arabia, which after his death spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East.	In Nauvoo, Smith developed a proto-governmental body called the Council of 50, which anointed him King of the Earth. For a while, Brigham Young ruled over a large domain, the Kingdom of Deseret, and claimed sovereignty over Utah, much of Arizona, Nevada, and even part of California.
<b>Violence Tendencies</b>		
55	Muhammad was a warrior, who led bands that raided caravans, in addition to directing whole armies in the conquest of Arabia.	Joseph Smith formed the Mormon “armies” of Zion’s Camp and the Nauvoo Legion. He was made a Lt. General of the militia.
56	The Prophet encouraged violence. Revenge and retribution against his enemies was common. <sup>27</sup> There was even a cadre of voluntary assassins who gladly eliminated his enemies. <sup>28</sup>	The Prophet encouraged violence. Revenge and retribution against his enemies was common. There was even a cadre of voluntary assassins who gladly eliminated his enemies—known as the “Danites” or “Avenging Angels.”
57	In the Quran Muhammad promoted the concept of <i>Jihad</i> , or holy war. It was not only acceptable, but desirable to wage war in the name of Allah.	Joseph Smith compared himself to Muhammad and declared that he would engage in a righteous war in Missouri: “I will be to this generation a second Muhammad, whose motto in treating for peace was the Alcoran or the Sword. So shall it eventually be with us: Joseph Smith or the Sword!” <sup>29</sup> Former Mormon Thomas B. Marsh says in a sword affidavit that Smith also said that he would “make it one gore of blood from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic.” <sup>30</sup>
58	The violence of the Prophet sometimes led to killing on a larger scale. For instance, under the Prophet’s orders the Jewish tribe of the Beni Qoreiga was massacred in Medina. This involved the slaughter of more than 600 men. <sup>31</sup>	The violence of the Mormon leaders sometimes led to killing on a larger scale. For instance, under Brigham Young’s orders a wagon train of pioneers was massacred at Mountain Meadows. This involved the slaughter of scores of men, women and children.
59	The Prophet Muhammad seemed especially to delight in bloodshed. Many of his enemies were beheaded, and the severed heads laid at the Prophet’s feet. <sup>32</sup>	The Mormons developed the doctrine of blood atonement. This was popularized by Brigham Young, but the concept can be traced to Joseph Smith. The Prophet declared that he did not prefer hanging as a form of execution, but would rather people be shot, or even better, beheaded <sup>33</sup> —thus shedding their blood.



60	The most infamous modern example of Islamic bloodshed are the attacks that occurred in 1991, on Sept. 11.	The most infamous example of Mormon bloodshed is the attack that occurred at the Mountain Meadows in 1857, on Sept. 11.
<b>The Occult</b>		
61	Islam has been very influential in forming the rituals and beliefs of Freemasonry. This is evident in a number of the higher degrees of the Scottish Rite, but is most prominent in the trappings and ceremonies of the Ancient Arabic Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (the Shriners). Also, there are a number of Masonic degrees that show the influence of Templarism—and the Knights Templar were influenced by their contacts with Islam.	LDS ritual and ceremony has been very influenced by Freemasonry. Smith, Young and most of the early leaders of Mormonism were Masons, and the LDS Temple rituals are largely based on Masonic ceremony. Masonic influence on Mormonism is seen in the rites of the endowment ceremony, in LDS symbolism, and in the “grips” and passwords used in temple ritual. <sup>34</sup>
62	There is a latent paganism in Islam. Allah was possibly originally a moon god, and only one of many hundreds of gods in the Arabian pantheon. We still see the crescent moon and five pointed star (symbol of Venus) as symbols of Islam.	Joseph Smith was greatly influenced by the paganism and the occult. His religion is essentially polytheistic.
63	The occult figures prominently in Islam. Folk Islam is replete with it. Some scholars feel that certain suras were designed to be used for divination. The last sura of the Quran is basically an incantation.	There is a strong occult undercurrent in LDS practice. Joseph Smith was noted to be involved in various forms of divination and folk magic. For example, he used “peep stones” to hunt for treasure. <sup>35</sup> Also early Mormon teaching included elements of astrology, Freemasonry and pyramidology. <sup>36</sup>
64	Even though Muhammad supposedly rejected paganism, he still insisted on the importance of a sacred stone, the famous Black Stone embedded in the Kaaba.	Even though Joseph Smith supposedly rejected superstition, he still used the powers of sacred stones—his peep stone, and the Urim and Thummim.
65	There is a strong demonic element present in the current practice of Islam. Christians report overt demonic activity in dealing with Muslim imams, etc.	There is a strong demonic element present in the current practice of Mormonism. For example, there are many reports of supernatural phenomenon that can only be demonic. Also, many involve in baptisms for the dead report seeing the spirits of deceased persons present at the baptism.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling. *Mormon America*. San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 1999, p. 67.
- <sup>2</sup> Article: "World Religions (Non-Christian) and Mormonism: Islam." *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. Daniel H. Ludlow, ed. NY: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1992, p. 1592.
- <sup>3</sup> Ostling and Ostling, pp. 264-65.
- <sup>4</sup> William A. Linn makes the following comment: "Stenhouse observes that Smith's mother 'was to him what Cadijah [sic] was to Mohammed.'" (William Alexander Linn. *The Story of the Mormons*. New York: The Macmilland Company, 1902, pp 109-110, footnote 2).
- <sup>5</sup> No. 8 of "The Articles of Faith" of the LDS Church.
- <sup>6</sup> *Documentary History of the Church*, vol. 4, pp.461.
- <sup>7</sup> Ezra Taft Benson enunciated this in a speech entitled "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet" delivered at BYU in early 1980.
- <sup>8</sup> Fregosi, pp. 36 and 62.
- <sup>9</sup> Abanes, Richard. *One Nation Under Gods*. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2002, p. 4. Also note Ostling and Ostling, pp. 248-249: "Even the scriptures have been rewritten to fit current doctrine in line with the idea of continuity and progressive revelation" and "... for Mormons history—and truth, which is supposedly embedded in history—is dynamic and fluid."
- <sup>10</sup> See Abanes, pp. 108-109.
- <sup>11</sup> See these suras: The Cow (Baqara) 2:30, 36-37. Abdullah Yusuf Ali comments: "Was the Garden of Eden a place on this earth? Obviously not... Before the Fall, we must suppose Man to be on another plane altogether." (*The Holy Qur'an*, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, trans. Elmhurst, NY: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., 1987, p. 25, note 50.)
- <sup>12</sup> Sura 2:30-37, and 15:19
- <sup>13</sup> For instance, see the article "Islam: Doctrine of the Qur'an: Man" in *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15<sup>th</sup> Edition, Macropaedia, Vol. 22, p. 7.  
Also consider the following quotes in *Islam In Focus* by Hammudah Abdalati where he states that man is born "free from sin" (p. 16) and "The idea of original sin or hereditary criminality has no room in the teachings of Islam" (p. 32) (Indianapolis, IN: American Trust Publications, 1975.)
- <sup>14</sup> Ostling & Ostling, pp. 302, 325.
- <sup>15</sup> Muhammad is reputed to have told one woman to serve her husband well and "look to your standing with him, for indeed he is your Paradise and your Fire." In other words, her eternal destiny in Paradise or hell was dependent on her husband's wishes. He also said, "Allah will not look at a woman who is not thankful to her husband and she cannot do without him." It is for this reason that in the Hadiths Muhammad says, "I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers are women." See W. L. Cati. *Married to Muhammed*. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House Press, 2001, pp. 85-86. One Hadith states that if a woman "disobeys her husband even for a twinkling of an eye, she would be thrown in the lowest part of Hell, except she repents and turns back" (Cati, pp. 57-58).
- <sup>16</sup> See Sandra Tanner's article "How the LDS Husband Hopes to Resurrect His Wife According to the LDS Temple Ceremony" found at the website of the Utah Lighthouse Mission, a Christian ministry run by ex-Mormons. This article is found at [www.utlm.org/onlineresources/resurrectwife.htm](http://www.utlm.org/onlineresources/resurrectwife.htm). Tanner quotes several early Mormon leaders, including LDS Apostle Erastus Snow, who in a sermon delivered in 1857 said, "No woman will get into the Celestial Kingdom, except her husband receives her" (quoted from the *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, p. 291). Also see Abanes, p. 303.
- <sup>17</sup> We read in An-Nawawi's collection of Hadiths: "The Apostle of God said the blood of a fellow-Muslim should never be shed except in three cases; that of the adulterer, the murderer, and whoever forsakes the religion of Islam."
- <sup>18</sup> Fregosi, p. 67. On his famous Night Journey, Muhammad was supposed to have ascended progressively through each of the seven heavens. E.g., see Washington Irving. *Mahomet and His Successors*. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co., c. 1849, pp. 74-78.
- <sup>19</sup> Article "Djanna" in the *Shorter Encyclopedia of Islam*. H. A. R. Gibb & J. H. Kramer, eds. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, n.d., p. 88.
- <sup>20</sup> Ostling & Ostling, p. 60.
- <sup>21</sup> Although the marriage was not consummated until she was nine years old! See Paul Fregosi. *Jihad In The West*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, p. 41.  
See Fawn Brodie. *No Man Knows My History*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974, pp. 471, 479-481, 488, etc. Several girls were only 15 at the time of their marriage to Smith.
- <sup>23</sup> See Cati, pp. 54-55.
- <sup>24</sup> Smith and other LDS leaders adopted what historian D. Michael Quinn calls "theocratic ethics." Basically this meant that they were doing God's will, and their personal ethics and morals were above ordinary conceptions of right and wrong (Abanes, p. 129).
- <sup>25</sup> See Abanes, pp. 174-178. Joseph Smith was heard to utter statements such as "it was a bad to injure him [Smith] as it was to

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injure Jesus Christ” and that he was “as good as Jesus Christ” (Abanes, p. 176.) Also consider the following from Smith: “I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him, but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.”

<sup>26</sup> Brigham Young declared that no one could enter into the Celestial Kingdom without the express consent of Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, pp. 289 (quoted in Abanes, p. 175).

<sup>27</sup> Fregosi, pp. 54-55.

<sup>28</sup> Fregosi, p. 47.

<sup>29</sup> Fawn M. Brodie. *No Man Knows My History*. New York: Vintage House, 1995, p. 230-231.

<sup>30</sup> The affidavit is presented at [http://www.saintswithouthalos.com/w/1838\\_tbmoh.phtml](http://www.saintswithouthalos.com/w/1838_tbmoh.phtml)

<sup>31</sup> Fregosi, p. 59. Estimates of the massacre of this Jewish tribe run from 600 to 800.

<sup>32</sup> Fregosi, p. 47, 57.

<sup>33</sup> See his words in *The History of the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 296.

<sup>34</sup> For the Masonic origins of Mormon Temple ritual, see Ostling and Ostling, pp. 193-195, and Abanes, pp. 34-40.

<sup>35</sup> The Ostlings assert that before assuming the role of prophet, Joseph Smith was “deeply involved with mystic amulets, diving rods, incantations, magic seer stones, and related rituals” (p. 265). Also see Abanes, pp. 87-90.

<sup>36</sup> See Abanes, p. 90