

What The Book of Mormon Teaches Us About Islamic Doctrine

Bullet Point Paper

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes in God the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. This is the foundation of our religion and we list it as our first article of faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but that He is the Redeemer of the world who atoned for our sins and makes eternal salvation possible for us all.
- We believe The Book of Mormon to be the word of God as is the Bible.
- The Book of Mormon has at least three accounts of false prophets who preach to the people anti-Christ doctrine which disrupts the peace of the people. Their names are Sherem, Nehor, and Korihor.
- All three of these anti-Christians confess prior to their deaths that what they taught was not true and that they were deceived by the devil. In one of these cases, the devil himself appeared unto one of these false prophets in the form of an angel and taught him what to teach.
- Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was also visited by an angel and was taught what to teach the people. The main doctrine the angel taught him, which is now recorded in the Qur'an dozens of times and in many different ways, is that Jesus Christ is not the Savior of the world, not the Son of God, that to believe such is a thing most monstrous, that those who believe it are blasphemers at best and worthy of death at worst.
- The experiences of Sherem, Nehor, Korihor, and Muhammad and the doctrine they preached are stunningly similar and are all completely opposed to the doctrine of Christ outlined in the Bible and The Book of Mormon. These accounts are included in this paper.
- Islam (speaking of doctrine and not of people) is the antithesis of Christianity and cannot be accepted or even tolerated any longer.

What The Book of Mormon Teaches Us About Islamic Doctrine

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds as its central doctrine a belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. As Joseph Smith, the prophet who restored the Church of Jesus Christ, taught, “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.” The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints released a declaration in 2000 reaffirming this doctrine as a central tenant of our faith. In their statement they bear testimony “that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.”

The Book of Mormon explicitly teaches the same. “Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.” This, of course, is not unique to The Book of Mormon. The Savior teaches repeatedly and emphatically that He is the only way. The apostle Thomas asked Jesus directly, “Lord, how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

So then what of the Qur'an? When I was in Afghanistan and first learning about Islam, I was told by the leading Church authority in the region that Mormons and Muslims believe in and worship the same God. Several leading professors at BYU and other top leaders in the Church have called the two “cousin religions” and

have taught repeatedly that our beliefs are very similar. In fact, the First Presidency of the Church released an official statement in 1978 specifically about the doctrine Muhammad taught. This is what they said: “The great religious leaders of the world such as Mohammed, Confucius, and the Reformers, as well as philosophers including Socrates, Plato, and others, received a portion of God’s light. Moral truths were given to them by God to enlighten whole nations and to bring a higher level of understanding to individuals.... Consistent with these truths, we believe that God has given and will give to all peoples sufficient knowledge to help them on their way to eternal salvation, either in this life or in the life to come.”

It is notable that the first person listed among these spiritual giants by the leaders of the Mormon Church is Muhammad. Furthermore, they declare that he not only received a portion of God’s light but that he taught moral truths and that these truths are consistent with basic teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Let us then analyze what it was exactly that Muhammad taught.

In the year 610 AD Muhammad, who lived in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, began to preach among the people and declare unto them that there should be no Christ. At the age of 40 he claimed that the angel Gabriel visited him in a cave near his home and taught him what to teach the people and told him to go reclaim the people because they had all gone astray.

This is the first thing the angel taught Muhammad in what is now found in Surah (chapter) 96: “Proclaim in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created man, out of a mere clot of congealed blood: Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful, Who taught by the use of the pen, -Taught man that which he knew not. Nay, but man doth transgress all bounds, in that he looketh upon himself as self-sufficient. Verily, to thy Lord is the return of all.”

This messenger who appeared to Muhammad in the form of an angel immediately commands him to start preaching to the people many things, but primary above them all is one doctrine that can be found dozens of times in the Qur'an. Indeed, it appears to be the principal teaching in Islam found not only in the Qur'an but in the Hadiths of Muhammad as well. Again from the Qur'an, in Surah 2, the angel continues to teach Muhammad what to tell the people: “This is the Book; in it is

guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah; Who believe in the Unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided them; And who believe in the Revelation sent to thee, and sent before thy time, and in their hearts have the assurance of the Hereafter. They are on true guidance, from their Lord, and it is these who will prosper. As to those who reject Faith, it is the same to them whether thou warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah hath set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a veil; death is the penalty they incur. Of the people there are some who say: "We believe in Allah and the Last Day:" but they do not really believe. Fain would they deceive Allah and those who believe, but they only deceive themselves, and realise it not! In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease: And grievous is the penalty they incur, because they are false to themselves.... They say "Allah hath begotten a son" :Glory be to Him. –Nay, to him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth: everything renders worship to Him. To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth: When He decreeth a matter, He saith to it: "Be," and it is.... Never will the Jews or the Christian be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion. Say: "The Guidance of Allah, -that is the only Guidance." Wert thou to follow their desires after knowledge which hath reached thee, then wouldest thou find neither Protector nor helper against Allah.... Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth no transgressors. And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter.... And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah.... Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not. Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter. Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. And if any of you Turn back from their faith and die in unbelief, their works will bear no fruit in this life and in the Hereafter; they will be companions of the Fire and will abide therein....Then fight in the cause of Allah, and know that Allah Heareth and knoweth all things."

Muhammad received several visits from the angel always teaching him the same doctrine, that "Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger of Allah" and it is recorded in the Hadith that Muhammad tells the people that "Christ is a servant and the son of his slave-girl." In Surah 4 the Qur'an says "Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: far exalted is He above having a son." Surah 5: "In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: "Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all everyone that is on the earth?... They do blaspheme who say: "Allah is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah, -Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help. They do blaspheme who say: "Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word of blasphemy, verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them....And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus, son of Mary! Didst thou say unto mankind: Worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right to say." Surah 6: "How can He have a child, when there is for Him no consort, when He created all things and is Aware of all things?" Surah 17: "Say, "Praise be to Allah, who begets no son, and has no partner in His dominion: Nor needs He any to protect Him from humiliation: yea magnify Him for His greatness and glory!'" Surah 18: "Warn those also who say, "Allah hath begotten a son:" No knowledge have they of such a thing, nor had their fathers. It is a grievous thing that issues from their mouths as a saying what they say is nothing but falsehood! Thou wouldest only, perchance, fret thyself to death, following after them, in grief, if they believe not in this Message." Surah 19: "It is not befitting to the majesty of Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him!... None shall have the power of intercession, but such a one as has received permission or promise from Allah Most Gracious. They say: "Allah Most Gracious has begotten a son!" Indeed ye have put forth a thing most monstrous! At it the skies are ready to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin, That they should invoke a son for Allah Most Gracious. For it is not consonant with the majesty of Allah Most Gracious that He should beget a son."

Surah 39: "Had Allah wished to take Himself a son, He could have chosen whom He pleased out of those whom He doth create: but Glory be to Him! He is above such things. He is Allah, the One, the Irresistible." Surah 43: "They attribute to some of His servants a share with Him in his godhead! truly is a man blasphemous ingrate avowed!" Surah 72: "Exalted is the Majesty of our Lord: He has taken neither a wife nor a son. There were some foolish ones among us, who used to utter extravagant lies against Allah; But we do think that no man or spirit should say aught that untrue against Allah." Surah 112: "Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him."

There is no more repeated or clear message in the Qur'an than this: That God does not have a son; that Jesus Christ is not the son of God; that those who believe that are at a minimum foolish or blasphemers, or at worse worthy of death.

But the story of an angel appearing to a man and commanding him to teach anti-Christ doctrine to men is not new. Amazingly, this exact story plays out at least three times in The Book of Mormon. Mormons believe that The Book of Mormon was written for our day. In the words of Ezra Taft Benson, a former President of the LDS Church, which is still used in the teaching manuals of the Church today, "The Book of Mormon was written for our day. The Nephites never had the book; neither did the Lamanites of ancient times. It was meant for us.... Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations.... If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, 'Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his records? What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?'

The prophet Mormon, the main author of the book, teaches that the words of this miraculous book will come to us "even as if one should speak from the dead. And it shall come in a day when the blood of saints shall cry unto the Lord, because of secret combinations and the works of darkness.... And there shall also be heard of wars, rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places. Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; there shall be murders, and robbing and lying, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of

abominations.... Behold, I speak unto you as if ye were present, and yet ye are not. But behold, Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and I know your doing." Mormon was aware of our day and knew what things we would need to keep us safe, to keep us from false doctrines, and to stay on the path which Christ has set for us. It is surely with this outlook that he thought it necessary to include when compiling the book from the many historical records he had, not one, not two, but three examples of when Muhammad-like "prophets" would come teaching the worst of all false-doctrines, that Jesus Christ is not the Savior of the world. Let us now examine the examples he gave us.

From The Book of Mormon, in the book of Jacob, chapter 7: "And now it came to pass after some years had passed away, there came a man among the people of Nephi whose name was Sherem. And it came to pass that he began to preach among the people, and to declare unto them that there should be no Christ. And he preached many things which were flattering unto the people; and this he did that he might overthrow the doctrine of Christ.... He did lead away many hearts;... And he was learned, that he had a perfect knowledge of the language of the people; wherefore, he could use much flattery, and much power of speech, according to the power of the devil. And he had hope to shake me (Jacob) from the faith, notwithstanding the many revelations and the many things which I had seen concerning these things; for I truly had seen angels, and they had ministered unto me. And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, I could not be shaken. And it came to pass that he came unto me, and on this wise did he speak unto me, saying: Brother Jacob, I have sought much opportunity that I might speak unto you; for I have heard and also know that thou goest about much, preaching that which ye call the gospel, or the doctrine of Christ. And ye have led away much of this people that they pervert the right way of God, and keep not the law of Moses which is the right way; and convert the law of Moses into the worship of a being which ye say shall come many hundred years hence. And now behold, I, Sherem, declare unto you that this is blasphemy; for no man knoweth of such things; for he cannot tell of things to come. And after this manner did Sherem contend against me. But behold, the Lord God poured in his Spirit into my soul, insomuch that I did confound him in all his

words. And I said unto him: Deniest thou the Christ? And he said: If there should be a Christ, I would not deny him; but I know that there is no Christ, neither has been, nor ever will be. And I said unto him: Believest thou the scriptures? And he said, Yea. And I said unto him: Then ye do not understand them; for they truly testify of Christ. Behold, I say unto you that none of the prophets have written, nor prophesied, save they have spoken concerning this Christ. And this is not all—it has been made manifest unto me, for I have heard and seen; and it also has been made manifest unto me by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I know if there should be no atonement made all mankind must be lost. And it came to pass that he said unto me: Show me a sign by this power of the Holy Ghost, in the which ye know so much. And I said unto him: What am I that I should tempt God to show unto thee a sign in the thing which thou knowest to be true? Yet thou wilt deny it, because thou art of the devil. Nevertheless, not my will be done; but if God shall smite thee, let that be a sign unto thee that he has power, both in heaven and in earth; and also, that Christ shall come. And thy will, O Lord, be done, and not mine. And it came to pass that when I, Jacob, had spoken these words, the power of the Lord came upon him, insomuch that he fell to the earth. And it came to pass that he was nourished for the space of many days. And it came to pass that he said unto the people: Gather together on the morrow, for I shall die; wherefore, I desire to speak unto the people before I shall die. And it came to pass that on the morrow the multitude were gathered together; and he spake plainly unto them and denied the things which he had taught them, and confessed the Christ, and the power of the Holy Ghost, and the ministering of angels. And he spake plainly unto them, that he had been deceived by the power of the devil. And he spake of hell, and of eternity, and of eternal punishment. And he said: I fear lest I have committed the unpardonable sin, for I have lied unto God; for I denied the Christ, and said that I believed the scriptures; and they truly testify of him. And because I have thus lied unto God I greatly fear lest my case shall be awful; but I confess unto God. And it came to pass that when he had said these words he could say no more, and he gave up the ghost. And when the multitude had witnessed that he spake these things as he was about to give up the ghost, they were astonished exceedingly; insomuch that the power of God came down upon them, and they fell to the earth. Now, this thing was

pleasing unto me, Jacob, for I had requested it of my Father who was in heaven; for he had heard my cry and answered my prayer. And it came to pass that peace and the love of God was restored again among the people; and they searched the scriptures, and hearkened no more to the words of this wicked man."

Here is the next example Mormon includes in his record: From the book of Alma, chapter 1: "And it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment-seat, there was a man brought before him to be judged, a man who was large, and was noted for his much strength. And he had gone about among the people. Preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the church; declaring unto the people that every priest and teacher ought to become popular; and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they ought to be supported by the people.... And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many that they began to support him and give him money. And he began to be lifted up in the pride of his heart, and to wear very costly apparel, yea, and even began to establish a church after the manner of his preaching. And it came to pass as he was going, to preach to those who believed on his word, he met a man who belonged to the church of God, yea, even one of their teachers; and he began to contend with him sharply, that he might lead away the people of the church; but the man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God. Now the name of the man was Gideon; and it was he who was an instrument in the hands of God in delivering the people of Limhi out of bondage. Now, because Gideon withstood him with the words of God he was wroth with Gideon, and drew his sword and began to smite him. Now Gideon being stricken with many years, therefore he was not able to withstand his blows, therefore he was slain by the sword. And the man who slew him was taken by the people of the church, and was brought before Alma, to be judged according to the crimes which he had committed. And it came to pass that he stood before Alma and pleaded for himself with much boldness. But Alma said unto him: Behold, this is the first time that priestcraft has been introduced among this people. And behold, thou art not only guilty of priestcraft, but hast endeavored to enforce it by the sword; and were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction. And thou hast shed the

blood of a righteous man, yea, a man who has done much good among this people; and were we to spare thee his blood would come upon us for vengeance. Therefore thou art condemned to die, according to the law which has been given us by Mosiah, our last king; and it has been acknowledged by this people; therefore this people must abide by the law. And it came to pass that they took him; and his name was Nehor; and they carried him upon the top of the hill Manti, and there he was caused, or rather did acknowledge, between the heavens and the earth, that what he had taught to the people was contrary to the word of God; and there he suffered an ignominious death."

To guarantee that we would be sufficiently warned against this destructive doctrine and any who would try to resurrect it, Mormon included yet another example: From the book of Alma, chapter 30: "And it came to pass that in the commencement of the seventeenth year of the reign of the judges, there was continual peace. But it came to pass in the later end of the seventeenth year, there came a man into the land of Zarahemla, and he was Anti-Christ, for he began to preach unto the people against the prophecies which had been spoken by the prophets, concerning the coming of Christ.... And this Anti-Christ, whose name was Korihor... began to preach unto the people that there should be no Christ. And after this manner did he preach, saying: O ye that are bound down under a foolish and a vain hope, why do ye yoke yourselves with such foolish things? Why do ye look for a Christ? For no man can know of anything which is to come. Behold, these things which ye call prophecies, which ye say are handed down by holy prophets, behold, they are foolish traditions of your fathers. How do ye know of their surety? Behold ye cannot know of things which ye do not see; therefore ye cannot know that there shall be a Christ. Ye look forward and say that ye see a remission of your sins. But behold, it is the effect of a frenzied mind; and this derangement of your minds comes because of the traditions of your fathers, which lead you away into a belief of things which are not so. And many more such things did he say unto them, telling them that there could be no atonement made for the sins of men, but every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius. And that every man conquered according to his strength; and whatsoever a man did was no crime. And thus he did preach unto them, leading away the hearts of many, causing them to lift

up their heads in their wickedness, yea, leading away many women, and also men, to commit whoredoms-telling them that when a man was dead, that was the end thereof.... And it came to pass that he was brought before Alma and the chief judge, he did go on in the same manner as he did in the land of Gideon; yea, he went on to blaspheme.... And then Alma said unto him: Will ye deny again that there is a God, and also deny the Christ? For behold, I say unto you, I know there is a God, and also that Christ shall come. And now what evidence have ye that there is no God, or that Christ cometh not? I say unto you that ye have none, save it be your word only. But behold, I have all things as a testimony that these things are true; and ye also have all things as a testimony unto you that they are true; and will ye deny them? Believest thou that these things are true? Behold, I know that thou believest, but thou art possessed with a lying spirit, and ye have put off the Spirit of God that it may have no place in you; but the devil has power over you, and he doth carry you about, working devices that he may destroy the children of God. And now Korihor said unto Alma: If thou wilt show me a sign, that I may be convinced that there is a God, yea, show unto me that he hath power, and then will I be convinced of the truth of thy words. But Alma said unto him: Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God? Will ye say. Show unto me a sign, when ye have the testimony of all these they brethren, and also all the holy prophets? The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea and also the planets which move in their regular form witness that there is a Supreme Creator. And yet do ye go about, leading away the hearts of this people, testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these witnesses? And he said: Yea, I will deny, except ye shall show me a sign. And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him: Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart, yea, that ye will still resist the spirit of the truth, that thy soul may be destroyed. But behold, it is better that thy soul should be lost than that thou shouldst be the means of bringing many souls down to destruction, by thy lying and by thy flattering words; therefore if thou shalt deny again, behold God shall smite thee, that thou shalt become dumb, that thou shalt never open thy mouth any more, that thou shalt not deceive this people any more.... Now when Alma had said these words,

Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have utterance, according to the words of Alma... And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying: I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak; and I know that nothing save it were the power of God could bring this upon me; yea, and I always knew that there was a God. But behold, the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel, and said unto me: Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown God. And he said unto me: There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind; and I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great curse upon me.... Now the knowledge of what had happened unto Korihor was immediately published throughout all the land; yea, the proclamation was sent forth by the chief judge to all the people in the land, declaring unto those who had believed in the words of Korihor that they must speedily repent, lest the same judgments would come unto them. And it came to pass that they were all convinced of the wickedness of Korihor; therefore they were all converted again unto the Lord; and this put an end to the iniquity after the manner of Korihor. And Korihor did go about from house to house, begging food for his support. And it came to pass that as he went forth among the people, yea, among a people who had separated themselves from the Nephites and called themselves Zoramites, being led by a man whose name was Zoram-and as he went forth amongst them, behold he was run upon and trodden down, even until he was dead. And thus we see the end of him of him who perverteth the ways of the Lord; and thus we see that the devil will not support his children at the last day, but doth speedily drag them down to hell."

The Book of Mormon is not the only book of scripture to warn us about these anti-Christians and their doctrine. The Bible has some very pointed words for these people as well. Deuteronomy 13: "If a prophet prophesy but tries to lead you away from God, he is false and should die." Matthew 7: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good

tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 5: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." And even a word to those who try to impose this doctrine through force or violence as did Nehor and as Muhammad taught to do: John 16, Christ speaking to His followers says, "The time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think he doeth God service."

It is interesting that Sherem was preaching to the people that they should follow the prophets of old and that they should turn again to the law of Moses. Some Mormons nowadays attempt to defend Islam because it teaches its followers to believe in many of the Biblical prophets. Some say it is akin to Christianity because it teaches its followers to pray, to fast, and mingle scripture with its philosophy. Those seeming similarities are irrelevant when the core doctrine is decisively contrary. Some might even say that Islamic doctrine is good because the Qur'an teaches of Jesus and teaches that he was a good man, a servant of God. C.S. Lewis had a perfect response to this mentality: "I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis was not the first to speak out against such ridiculous theology. The same Reformers the LDS Church praised in its 1978 statement also decried Islamic doctrine. Martin Luther called the Qur'an a "foul book of blasphemy." John Calvin

claimed Muhammad was the anti-Christ as did Cotton Mather, the early American founder and minister. John Adams described Muhammad as a military fanatic and his son John Quincy wrote that “the precept of the Koran is, perpetual war against all who deny, that Mahomet is the prophet of God... The command to propagate the Moslem creed by the sword is always obligatory, when it can be made effective, The commands of the prophet may be performed alike, by fraud, or by force.” Thomas Paine classified Islam as “a tyranny.” Alexis de Tocqueville wrote one of the most damning statements about this religion: “I studied the Quran a great deal. I came away from that study with the conviction there have been few religions in the world as deadly as that of Muhammad.”

I could continue on with many others who have come to that same conclusion but really, the opinions of these men are not as relevant to the point I’d like to make here. The point is that the revelations contained in these books could not have been given by the same God. As Christ said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” The foundational beliefs of Mormonism and Islam are completely opposed, absolutely contrary, and totally incompatible. Islam holds as its central belief that Jesus Christ is not God. Mormonism holds as its central belief that Jesus Christ is God and the Savior of the world. The doctrine of Muhammad is the very antithesis of all Christian faiths and cannot be accepted by a Christian unless he deny his own faith. They are not similar, they are not cousin religions, and the acceptance or even toleration of such a pernicious religion will lead to the further destruction of the nations of the world as we are now seeing. No Christian church, especially the Mormons, should repeat or believe such unfounded statements like that made by the First Presidency four decades ago. We must first be bold enough to identify Islam for what it is, an anti-Christ and dangerous heresy. Next we must be courageous enough to take action to eliminate it and generously enough, the answer of how to eliminate it is also provided in The Book of Mormon. Praise be to God for providing us with His Son and the Holy Scriptures to guide our lives.

Note 1: For this paper I used one of the most widely accepted English translations of the Qur'an, by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. It can be found online here:

<http://www.usc.edu/org/cmje/religious-texts/quran>

Note 2: Standby for my next paper where I highlight the strategy The Book of Mormon provides for eradicating Islamic doctrine.