

Thomas Ford, the Governor of Illinois, shortly after Smith's death said, 'It was asserted that Joseph Smith, the founder and head of the Mormon Church, had caused himself to be crowned and anointed king of the Mormons.' Smith had a penchant for dressing up in military uniform. He organised the Mormons into his private army. Mormon historian Fawn Brodie, who was excommunicated for her pains at being honest and objective, wrote in her defining biography of the prophet:

'Joseph Smith requested and received from Governor Carlin the commission of Lieutenant General and thereafter frequently jested about his outranking every military officer in the United States. He came to prefer the title General even to President and used it in much of his correspondence. His uniform was smartly designed... on his hip he carried a sword and two big horse pistols. Delighting in the pomp and splendour of parades, he called out the legion on every possible occasion...' *No Man Knows my History*, pp. 270-271.

One of the prophet's devotees, Lyman L. Woods, recalled one of these parades with these words:

'I have seen him on a white horse wearing the uniform of a general... he was leading a parade of the legion and looked like a god.' Smith's aspirations knew no limits. He was elected Mayor of Nauvoo with a grand design of eventually standing for the Presidency of the US, which was thwarted only by his assassination. In the original version of Joseph Smith's own history, he speaks thus of himself: 'I am a lawgiver; I am a big lawyer and comprehend heaven, earth and hell, to bring forth knowledge that shall cover up all lawyers, doctors and other big bodies.' *The History of the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 289. 'I know more than they all.' *ibid.* Vol. 5, p. 467. 'I solve mathematical problems of universities with truth - diamond truth; and God is my right hand man.' *ibid.* Vol. 6, p. 78. '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... neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I.' *ibid.* Vol. 6, pp. 408-409.

Charlotte Haven, a contemporary of Smith in Nauvoo,

well sums up his character with these words: 'He is evidently a great egotist and boaster.'

This then is something of the true character of Joseph Smith. Very much more could be said concerning him. There is no better description of Joseph Smith than that given by the King of Glory (Psalm 24), God manifest in the flesh, (1 Timothy 3:16), the Lord Jesus Christ, who said '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...' (Matthew 7:15). The reality of Smith's brutal, proud, immoral and dishonest character destroys the very foundation of the Mormon religion. Many Mormons over the years have honestly faced up to this and have become Christians. You are urged to do the same.

Mrs Freda Stirling gives the following testimony:

"I experienced such an extraordinary change within me that the past of Mormonism faded into a sham. Gone were its false prophet and president: gone were its priests and elders: gone its absurd doctrines and control. Instead I had the Lord, His Word and His peace. What more did one need!"

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12.

For more help:

Reformed Ministry to Mormons

17 Weston Road, Chiswick, London W4 5NL,
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Ex Mormons for Christ

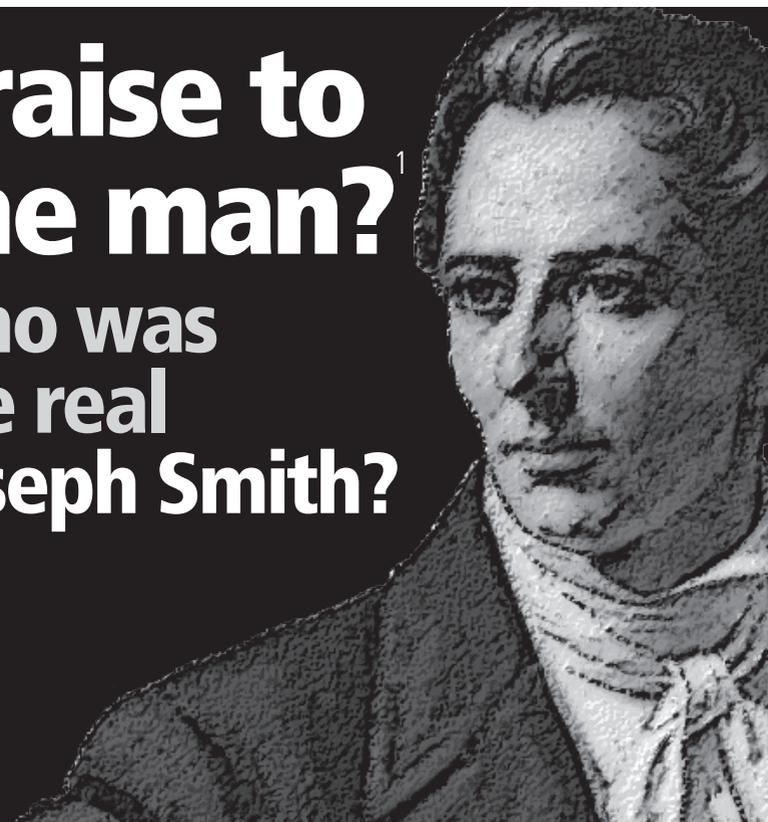
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IS-MORMONISM

Praise to the man? Who was the real Joseph Smith?



CHRISTIAN



In Salt Lake City, Utah, which is the organisational centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormons, there is an exhibition which is dedicated to promoting and eulogising the Mormon religion and in particular its founder **Joseph Smith**. The entire basis of Mormonism lies in the extraordinary claims of Joseph Smith who asserted that he had been called by God to be a prophet entrusted with a new revelation to supplement the Bible, namely the Book of Mormon.

The purpose of this tract is not to antagonise but to invite an honest appraisal of the facts concerning Joseph Smith. If the historical Joseph Smith is different from the public image presented by the Mormon leadership then the only legitimate conclusion which can be drawn is that there is a deliberate cover up in order to mislead. It is well said that truth has nothing to hide nor to fear. So, dear reader, if you are seeking the truth and wanting the truth to be established, you will be prepared to face up to the consequences of the truth concerning Joseph Smith being established.

¹The first line of a well known Mormon hymn in praise to Joseph Smith

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Joseph Smith the Occultist

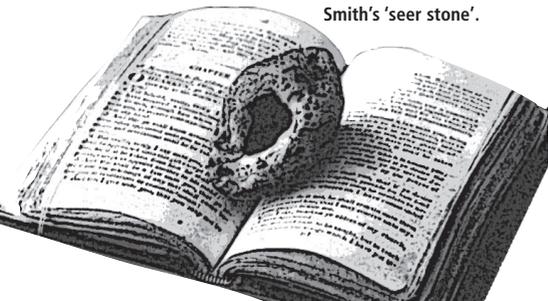
As a young man, Smith was obsessed with the notions of buried treasure and treasure seeking. He evidently believed that inanimate objects such as stones and dry sticks contained hidden powers which he could tap into. He practised the use of divining rods and he was guided by a small egg-shaped rock which he called 'a seer stone'. For much of his life he carried about his person a talisman which he effectively used as a charm. Eyewitness accounts all confirm that Joseph Smith translated Reformed Egyptian² by placing the seer stone in his hat which he peered into. Here is the account of David Whitmer, one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon.

'I will now give you a description of the manner in which the Book of Mormon was translated. Joseph would put the seer stone into a hat and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely round his face to exclude the light. A piece of something resembling parchment would appear and on that appeared the writing.' *An address to all believers in Christ by David Whitmer. 1887 p. 12*

Far from being a prophet of God, he was in bondage to crude superstition and pursuing practices inimical to the Word of God which declares:

'And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.' (Isaiah 8:19-20) **'...and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.'** (Isaiah 19:3)

The Book of Mormon with Smith's 'seer stone'.



Joseph Smith and Animal Sacrifices

It is a well-established fact that animal sacrifices form an important part of occultic ritual. In his book, *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View*, p. 144, Dr Michael Quinn gives this information: 'A cousin of Smith's wife Emma reported that

Smith translated the Book of Mormon by means of the same peep stone and under the same inspiration that directed his enchantments and dog sacrifices; it was all by the same spirit.'

In an affidavit published in 1834 William Stafford, one of the neighbours of the Smith family, reported the following:

'Joseph Smith Snr came to me one night and told me that Joseph Smith Jr had been looking in his glass and had seen not many rods from his house, two or three keys of gold and silver...'

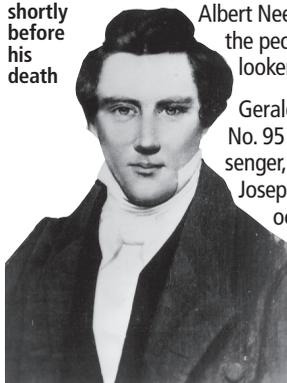
Joseph Smith Snr first made a 12ft or 14ft in diameter circle. "This circle", said he [Joseph Smith Jr], "contains the treasure..." Old Joseph and one of the boys came to me one day, and said Joseph Jr had discovered some very remarkable and valuable treasures which could only be procured in one way. That way was as follows - that a black sheep should be taken to the ground where the treasures were concealed and that after cutting its throat, it should be led around in a circle while bleeding. This being done, the wrath of the evil spirit should be appeased...'

Joseph Smith Convicted of Fraud

Joseph Smith's preoccupation with treasure seeking gained him notoriety and also trouble with the law. In 1826 in his home state of New York he was charged and convicted of being a 'disorderly

² actually a non-existent language

A rare photo of Smith taken shortly before his death



person and an imposter'. The bill of Justice Albert Neely carries this entry: 'Same [i.e. the people] vs Joseph Smith the glass looker. March 20, 1826'.

Gerald and Sandra Tanner, in issue No. 95 of the *Salt Lake City Messenger*, sum up the implications of Joseph Smith's involvement with occultic practices thus:

'What is involved here is the question of whether Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God or merely a man entangled in occultic practices. Once we accept the validity of the documents concerning Joseph Smith's trouble with the law, we are forced to admit that he was engaging in witchcraft and magical practices. At the very time he claimed he was being tutored by the deceased Moroni, now an angel, to receive the

sacred records. These facts undermine the whole story of the divine origin of the Book of Mormon.'

'He is evidently a great egotist and boaster.'

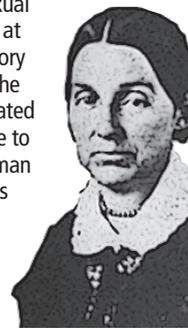
Charlotte Haven, a contemporary of Smith in Nauvoo,



The popular image of Smith as presented by the LDS in his monument at Salt Lake City

Joseph Smith the Womaniser

The only lawful expression of human sexuality is a heterosexual relationship between one man and one woman within the state of marriage. The divine pattern for human sexual relationship was established at the beginning of human history in the Garden of Eden with the first marriage when God created Eve and gave her in marriage to Adam. All other forms of human sexuality are sinful deviations and contrary to God's moral law, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery' (Exodus 20:14). In the New Testament the



Joseph Smith's first wife Emma

Some of Joseph Smith's other wives



Eliza Snow



Loisa Beman



Martha McBride



Eliza Partridge



Rhoda Richards

Apostle Paul writes, 'Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife...' (1 Timothy 3:12). Holding the life of Joseph Smith to the mirror of God's holy law reveals him to be very far short in sexual morality.

To the disgust and horror of even some of his closest associates, including his first wife Emma, Smith started practising, at first secretly and then openly, 'spiritual wifery', that is to say polygamy. There is uncertainty as to exactly how many unions with other women the so-called prophet entered into, but most, including Mormon authorities, agree it was at least thirty. Defying the law of consanguinity, Smith married a mother and her daughter and several pairs of sisters. Compounding this perversity, Smith entered into unions with other men's wives. In fact, the evidence is that this sharing of wives by married men, or polyandry, was the norm with respect to Smith's first dozen or so wives.

In the light of Smith's shocking and debauched behaviour, is it any wonder that the fiercest of opposition was aroused against this bizarre sect and its leader? The *Nauvoo Expositor*, an Illinois newspaper, bravely published a strongly worded criticism on Smith and it was this which prompted Smith to attack and to destroy its office and printing press. Smith was not only a philanderer of the first order but, in keeping with all true despots, he would not tolerate any opposition and contradiction.

Joseph Smith the Megalomaniac

Shortly before his death, Smith formed a secret organisation known as the 'Council of Fifty', which promptly 'ordained Joseph Smith as king on earth'. See p.114, *The Theory and Practice of the Political Kingdom of God in Mormon History, 1829-1890*. Masters Thesis, Klaus J. Hansen of Brigham Young University.

Smith in his role as Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion

