

Two Self-Proclaimed Prophets

Both Muhammad and Smith said they received many revelations directly from God. In terms of scholarly standards, the word revelation should really be placed in quotation marks to indicate its subjected or purported nature. But to place it in quotation marks each time it is used would appear editorially awkward. Hence, I do not enclose the word revelation in quotation marks. This is not admitting that both men received genuine revelations from God, or that they were real prophets, on par with God's biblical prophets. The latter, of course, is what both Smith and Muhammad believed and taught, and many of their followers believed they were divine prophets, similar to the prophets in the Bible.

Not placing the word revelation in quotation marks also does not ignore that some revelations of Smith and Muhammad... contradicted some of their previous revelations. In addition, many contradicted the biblical revelations of Moses and other biblical prophets. And it is important to note that neither Muhammad nor Smith could corroborate their revelations, as Jesus did, for example, when he challenged people. "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me, but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father" (John 10:37, 38).

(The American Muhammad: Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism, (Unveiling Parallels Between Two Self-Proclaimed Prophets) by Alvin J. Schmidt, St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia Publishing House, 2013, xxiii)