

He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (9th Article of Faith).

The Book of Mormon is part of a record, both sacred and secular, of prophets and peoples who (with supplementary groups) were among the ancestors of the American Indians. It covers principally the peoples of the period from about 600 B.C. to A.D. 421. These peoples were of Asiatic origin, of the House of Israel, and left Jerusalem during the reign of King Zedekiah, eventually to cross the sea to the Western world, where they built great cities and civilizations. Ultimately, they all but destroyed themselves in warring with one another.

They brought with them certain records of the Old Testament. In addition, their historians, statesmen, and prophets kept records of important events of their own civilization, some of which were engraved on gold plates. It was from such plates "preserved by the gift and power of God" that Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon (first published in 1830).

The book takes its title from a man whose name was Mormon, who was one of the later prophets of the thousand-year period, and who was not greatly different from the prophets of Old and New Testament times, except that he lived in the Western Hemisphere among some of the Savior's "other sheep" (John 10:16). The Book of Mormon witnesses that Jesus the Christ visited the inhabitants of this hemisphere after His ascension.

What Does the Mormon Believe About Man's Immortality?

Energy, matter, and "intelligence" exist eternally and are indestructible. And man himself has existed from the premortal past and will continue, with his individual identity, into the endless eternal future.

At an appointed time, after the change called death, man will emerge as a resurrected being with a deathless union of spirit and body, literally following the promise and pattern set by the Savior.

Do Mormons Practice Polygamy?

No. For any Church member, the penalty for plural marriage today is excommunication.