If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, that giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given him.

-Epistle of James
first chapter and 5th verse
Joseph Smith, Jr.,
This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!

I come only to inquire which of the church sects I should join; which one is right and true?

You shall join none, for they are all wrong. All their creeds are an abomination in my sight, and are corrupt.

They draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

They teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.

And with that revelation God and his Son left Joseph.

Three years later...

Please forgive me of all of my sins, and please, please, please appear to me, Lord, and let me know of my standing with you, whether it is good or bad.

Have mercy!
Joseph Smith Jr.,
I am a messenger sent from the Presence of God, my name is Moroni.

God has work for you. Your name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds and tongues.

There is a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang.

The everlasting gospel is contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants.

Also you shall find two stones in silver bows— and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constitute what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates, and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted "Seers" in ancient times.

God has prepared them for the purpose of translating this book.

For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven—
And all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble; for they that come shall burn them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

When you get the plates of which I have spoken, you should not show them to any person, neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim, only those whom I shall command you to show.

If you do, you shall be destroyed.

It was at this time that a vision was put into Joseph’s mind, and he could see where the plates were deposited.
The hill Cumorah in upstate NEW YORK.

Two Years later...

"Yea, I make a record in the Language of my fathers, which consists of the learnings of the Jews and the Language of the Egyptians..."

Joseph's friend Martin Harris acted as a scribe while Joseph translated the plates—which were written in what Joseph called "Reformed Egyptian." Only Joseph could read it. And only holding the "Seer Stone" in his hat and reading the sentences that would form inside.

BEHOLD... my own THAT I...

Soon after showing the manuscript to his wife, it vanished from his home.

Martin's wife didn't approve of her husband's collaboration with Joseph. Martin sent Joseph if he could take the first 16 pages to show to his wife to convince her of Joseph's authenticity. Joseph prevailed and agreed to allow it.

By mortgaging his farm Joseph guaranteed him in writing that he would share in any profits made from the book.

In the spring Harris walked the streets of Palmyra, trying to sell copies of the Book of Mormon to the townspeople.

End Of Part One