

spired' writings. In deference to this charismatic figure or these 'inspired' writings, the style of leadership is authoritarian and there is frequently an exclusivistic outlook, supported by a legalistic lifestyle and persecution mentality" (5). By this definition, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all cults, since each was led by charismatic and authoritarian prophets who added inspired writings to the contemporary "Bible."

Most problematic, such a definition fails to consider changes over time within a religious tradition. Following Shipp's suggestion, I would argue that these traditions may have begun as cults. After gaining sufficient adherents to achieve a degree of stability and acceptance, however, they became new religious traditions.

Since Mormonism is one of the largest religions in the United States, and since it has achieved a large number of adherents throughout the world, it is properly called a Christian church. If Mormons did not believe in the atonement of Jesus Christ, they might be called a new religion, but since they accept Christ as their savior, they are a church within Christianity. Only the ignorant or prejudiced would call Mormonism a cult.

In sum, Mormons can learn a great deal from the stories told by people and recorded in this book. Nevertheless perceptive Latter-day Saint and other Christian readers will find themselves disappointed because the author's understanding of Mormonism is deficient and her characterization of the church reveals her prejudice.

A Tragic Story of Loss

San Bernardino: The Rise and Fall of a California Community. By Edward Leo Lyman (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1996).

Reviewed by Maria S. Ellsworth, researcher and writer, Logan, Utah.

THIS AWARD-WINNING BOOK BY Professor Leo Lyman of Victor Valley College is the product of many years of research and writing. He takes the reader through diaries, letters, records kept by church clerks, newspaper accounts from California and Utah in describing all that happened in the San Bernardino Valley before and after the San Bernardino colony was established by Brigham Young in

the fall of 1851 and was then recalled by him in 1857.

This impressive book, with maps and photographs, and dramatic narrative, will interest all who enjoy detailed history of the period when colonizing the Mormon territory took place.

Lyman describes the history of the region before the American Period: the native people, the Spanish Fathers who converted them to Christianity, the Spanish ranchers, the early trappers and explorers, followed by westering Americans. Into this mix was added the very different group of Latter-day Saints coming from Utah. The mix was made more