

Choir, with Elder J. Spencer Cornwall conducting, Elder Frank W. Asper at the organ this morning, and Elder Alexander Schreiner at the organ this afternoon.

I am sure the Tabernacle Choir will permit me to extend to them again the thanks and gratitude which all of us feel in our hearts for the great service which they are rendering to the Church. They are one of the great missionary instrumentalities of the Church. Their music grows more beautiful with the years. God bless them always.

Singing by the Choir, "Hallelujah Chorus."

President J. Willard Marriott of the Washington Stake offered the benediction.

Conference adjourned *sine die*.

GENERAL PRIESTHOOD MEETING

The General Priesthood meeting of the Church was held in the Tabernacle Saturday evening, April 8, at 7:00.

President George Albert Smith was present and presided.

The choral music for this meeting was furnished by the Deseret Stake Male Chorus, Elder Ladd R. Cropper conducting, Elder Alexander Schreiner at the organ.

The Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall to the south of the Tabernacle were crowded to capacity, every available space being occupied. The services were not broadcast, except that the brethren assembled in the Assembly Hall were able to see and hear the proceedings as they were televised from the Tabernacle.

As an opening number the Deseret Stake Male Chorus sang: "All In The April Evening."

President L. Harold Wright of the Maricopa Stake offered the opening prayer.

The Chorus sang the hymn: "I Need Thee Every Hour."

PRESIDENT GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

I hesitate to suggest that you crowd together and make more room for the people standing, but if there is a space anywhere that you can move into, let us give everybody a seat that we possibly can.

Now we are met tonight in this historic building, just as we have met many times, but we have never before had as many people here at Priesthood Meeting as we have now.

This is during the period of time that is celebrated by the world as a part of the time when the Saviour was in the tomb. Tomorrow will be Easter and the services in many parts of the Christian world will be directed to emphasize that fact. And yet, very few people in the world realize what it means. They talk about it and sing about it, but not very many people know what Easter really means.

Now tonight we shall visit together a little in regard to matters that the priesthood are concerned about, and our first speaker will be the Historian of the Church, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, who will have some information that I am sure some of you will be very happy to obtain, and by learning of it will be able to help the Historian's Office with its work.

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I wish to address my remarks particularly to the bishops and the presidents of stakes, and yet we are all concerned with the records of the Church.

KEEPING OF RECORDS

In the days of Adam, one of the first things the Lord did was to call upon him and others following him to keep records. You will read of that in the Pearl of Great Price.

In Section twenty, which was given at the time of the organization of the Church, and in the next Section, Section twenty-one, of the Doctrine and Covenants, you will find written instructions in regard to the keeping of records in the Church. What would we do, what condition would we be in if records had not been kept in days of old? We would not have our Bible; we would not have our Book of Mormon; and in our own day we would not have the Doctrine and Covenants, nor the Pearl of Great Price. You all know how valuable these books are, and the Lord preserved them that they might be a benefit to us in learning of His ways and in the keeping of His commandments.

WARD AND STAKE RECORDS

Now the Church has given instructions that records be kept in every ward and in every stake of Zion. We send out the blanks with definite instruction printed upon them as to the nature of the information which is to be gathered. We try to make it easy for the clerks. And I want to say that it is just as important, ordinarily so at least, to have a good, efficient clerk, as it is to have a good, efficient president of a stake, one who has the desire and the ability to keep the records.

These records should be kept in duplicate and one copy sent in quarterly to the Historian's Office and one filed in the stake. Records should be kept in the wards. The stake clerk should keep a record of all events, taking from the ward records the material that is essential to place in the record of the stake.

All recorders know, or should know, the nature of the recording that they ought to make.