

Remarks at
Unveiling of the Frieze of the Prophets
Earl C. Davis
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Among the greatest art treasures of America is the Frieze of the Prophets, a portion of the mural decorations of the Boston Public Library. In this great painting, John Singer Sargent has made alive and real powerful characters of Israel's Prophetic Era. With a surpassing richness of color and profound insight into human history, the creator of these figures has made forever vital the truth that the soul of history is the history of great souls. This is the content of revelation.

Thousands of men and women from all over the world have stood before that Frieze in the Boston Public Library to be caught and held by the magic spell of power and penetration with which these prophets speak.

Among those who have [been] caught by the majesty of this painting are some who have loved not only the painting, but also have loved this church and the city of Lancaster. This combination of affections has resulted in the creation and placement in this church of a very fine reproduction of the Frieze of the Prophets. This gift we are about to unveil.

It is a gift, not only to this building, but to the people of Lancaster in the fond hope that they will regard it as their own to [be] looked upon and loved by all. Those things which we love and honor betray the inmost soul of us to all the world.

As the picture is being unveiled, the choir will sing
"O prophet souls of all the years,
Bend o'er us from above;
Your far-off vision, toils, and tears
Now fulfillment move."

As the hymn is finished we may stand in silent meditation for a moment.