

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Four

Four (Part XII) Four Carpenters

Zec. 1:20 "And the LORD showed me four carpenters. 21 Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it."

The Children of Israel had been scattered by the four horns set forth in Daniel's vision. These four horns were the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and the Roman Empire. The four carpenters were come to fray the effects of the horns and to build up the Kingdom of God.

The purpose of carpenters is to build. Sometimes it is necessary to tear down poorly constructed or badly constructed structures in order to build a proper structure. This is also true with the gospel. Sometimes it is necessary to show the errors of false teaching in order to build up the truth in the minds of God's people.

The four carpenters would seem to be typical of the four gifts of gospel ministers set forth in Eph. 4:8-13: "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

The apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers were given to edify or build up the body of Christ. Eph. 2:19 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are **built** upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ

himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." 1 Pet. 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are **built** up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." The gospel ministers must have the indwelling and leadership of the Spirit of God in order to build up the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and her members.