

Hiram, king of Tyre, wrote an answer which he sent to Solomon:

"Because the LORD loves his people, he has placed you over them as king."

He added: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for having given King David a wise son of intelligence and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and also a house for his royal estate.

I am now sending you a craftsman of great skill, Hiram-abi, son of a Danite woman and of a father from Tyre; he knows how to work with gold, silver, bronze and iron, with stone and wood, with purple, violet, fine linen and crimson, and also how to do all kinds of engraved work and to devise every type of artistic work that may be given him and your craftsmen and the craftsmen of my lord David your father. And now, let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, oil and wine which he has promised. For our part, we will cut trees on Lebanon, as many as you need, and float them down to you at the port of Joppa, whence you may take them up to Jerusalem."