

or for any cause whatsoever, and they could not come to an agreement among themselves, then they said: Let Admon judge between us, and we will abide by his decree.

By reason of his diligence and his wisdom in all things, my father had fame in all Philistia, and in Babylon, and in Damascus, and in Salem of the Jebusites, and in Tadmor of the desert, and in Thebes and Memphis of Egypt. The merchants thereof sought him out that they might buy of him cattle and sheep for the slaughter, and fine wool for the weavers of Babylon, and camels for burden, and horses and swift-footed dromedaries for the use of kings and princes and men of war.

And so it came to pass that my father waxed rich in silver and gold and precious stones; and in garments of price made in Babylon; and in shields and swords and bows of steel, excellent in workmanship and of cunning device, wrought by the artificers of Damascus.

Because my father was grown old—he was an hundred and fourscore years of age—we had built a palace near to the springing of the mountain, about a day's journey from the plain where we pastured our flocks and herds. This we did, albeit we were shepherds and lived in tents, that my father, in the infirmity of his age, might dwell at ease.