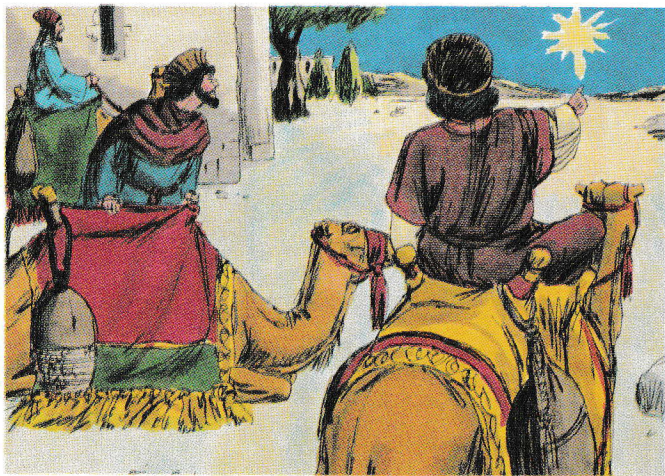


The Wise Men



1 After Jesus was born, some wise men from a country in the east arrived in Jerusalem. These were men who studied and looked for signs in the stars.



2 When they got to Jerusalem, they asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east, and we have come to worship him."



3 Herod, the king of Judea, was very upset when he heard what the wise men were saying. He called for the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked, "Where will the Messiah be born?"



4 "He will be born in Bethlehem of Judea," they answered. "The prophet Micah wrote, 'Out of you (Bethlehem) will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"



5 Herod met in secret with the wise men to find out exactly when they first saw the star. Then he said, "When you find the child, let me know. I, too, want to go and worship him."



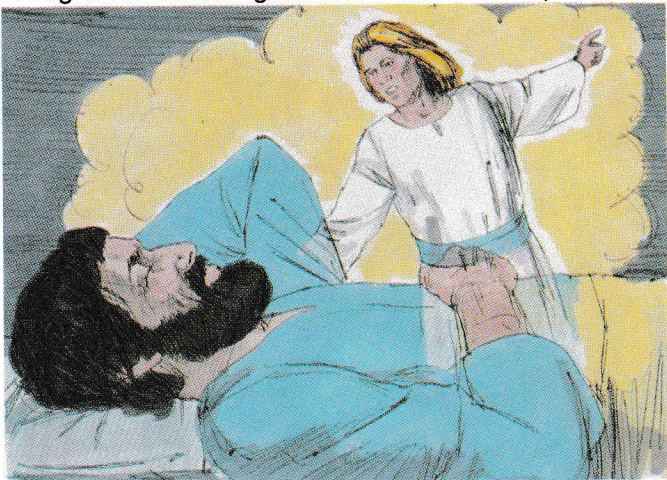
6 As the wise men set out, the star they had seen in the east appeared again. They were filled with joy. The star went before them and led them to the place where Jesus was.



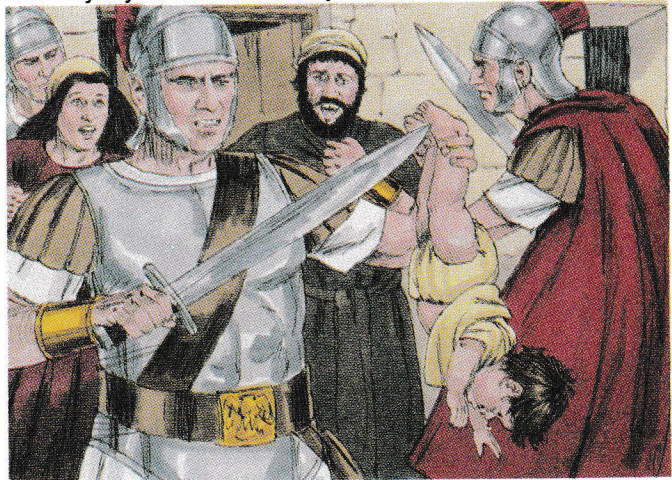
7 When the wise men entered, they saw Mary with the child. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened the gifts that they had brought for Jesus—gold and incense and perfume.



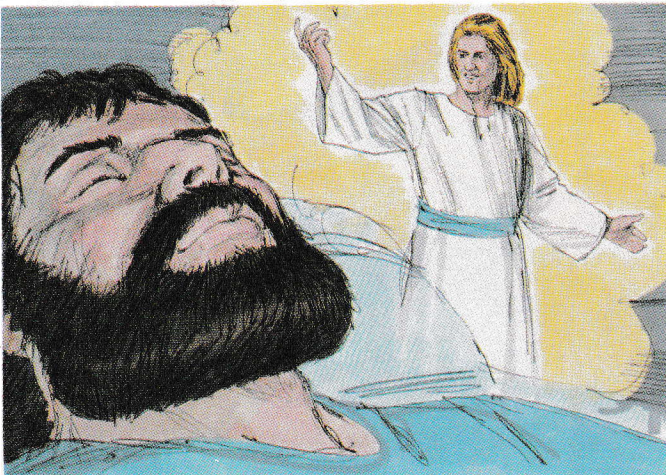
8 But when they left there, they did not return to King Herod. They had been warned in a dream not to go back. Instead, they returned to their own country by a different way.



9 An angel also warned Joseph through a dream. He said, "Joseph, get up and take the child and his mother to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to try to kill the child."



10 When Herod realized that the wise men had tricked him, he was furious. He ordered his men to kill all the little boys in Bethlehem who were not yet two years old. It was a time of great sorrow.



11 After some time, Herod died. Then the angel again appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "You can take the boy and his mother back to the land of Israel, for they will now be safe."



12 So they returned to the land of Israel. But when Joseph heard that Herod's son was now the ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. So they settled in the town of Nazareth in Galilee.