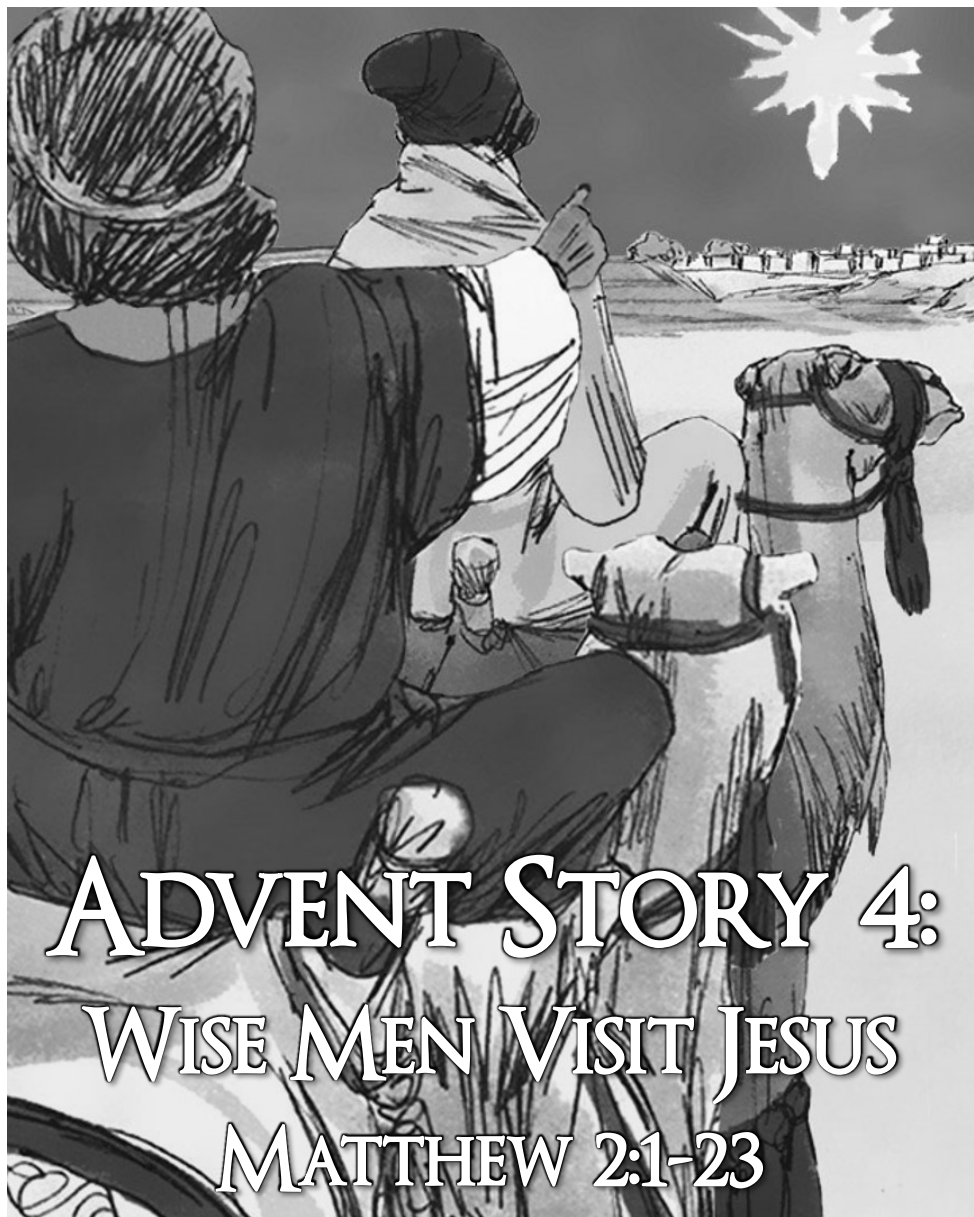


ADVENT STORY 4:

WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

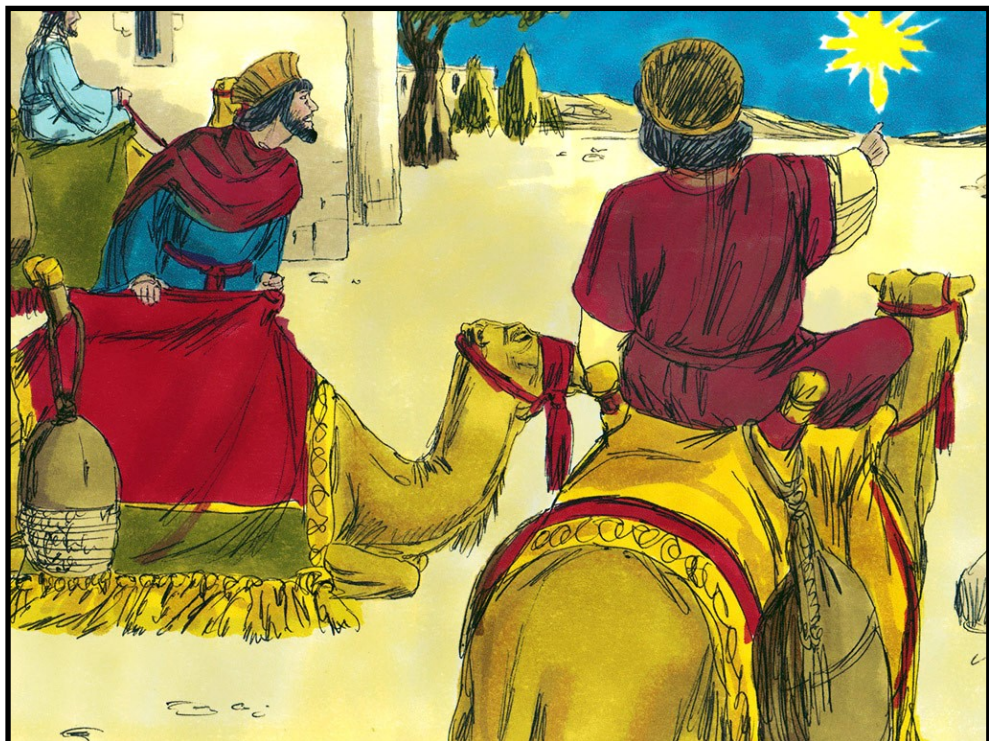
MATTHEW 2:1-23



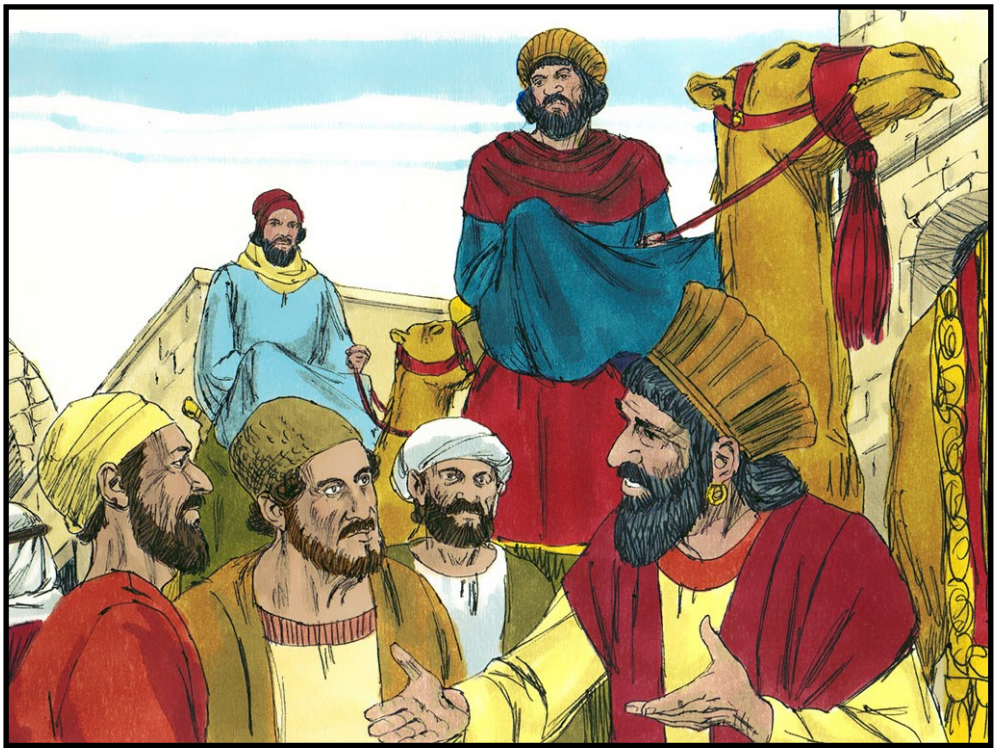
ADVENT STORY 4:

WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

MATTHEW 2:1-23

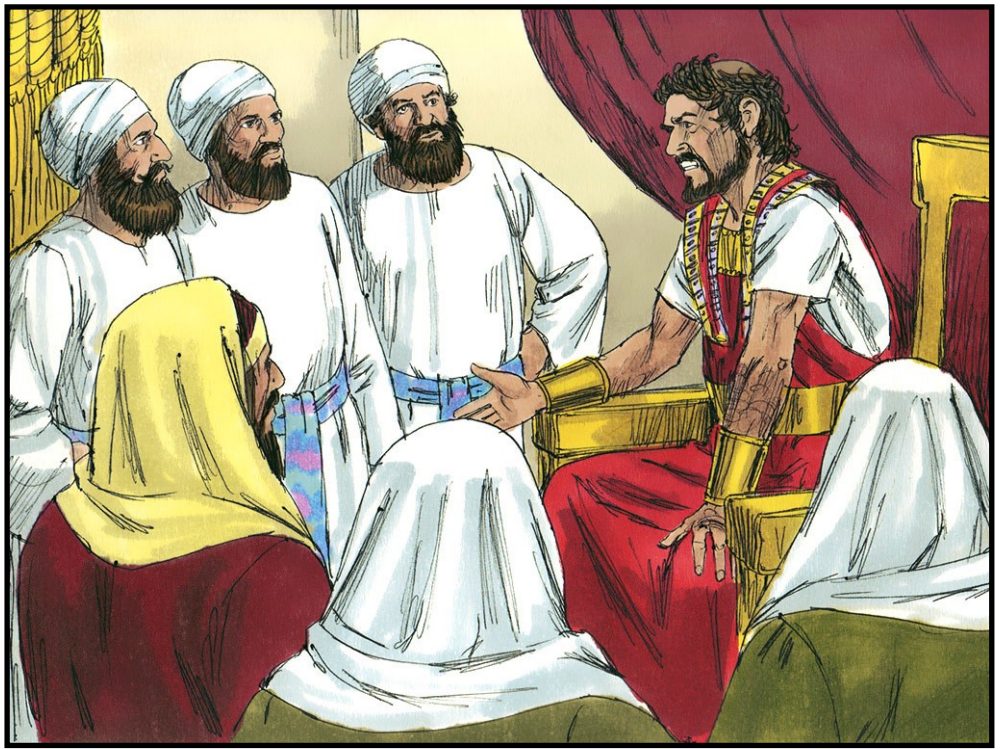


In a distant land of the East there were Wise Men who saw a bright, new star in the sky. It was a sign to them that a new king had been born. So they followed the star for many weeks and it led them toward the city of Jerusalem.



When the Wise Men arrived in Jerusalem they began asking, “Where is the one who has been born the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose in the sky and have come to worship him.”

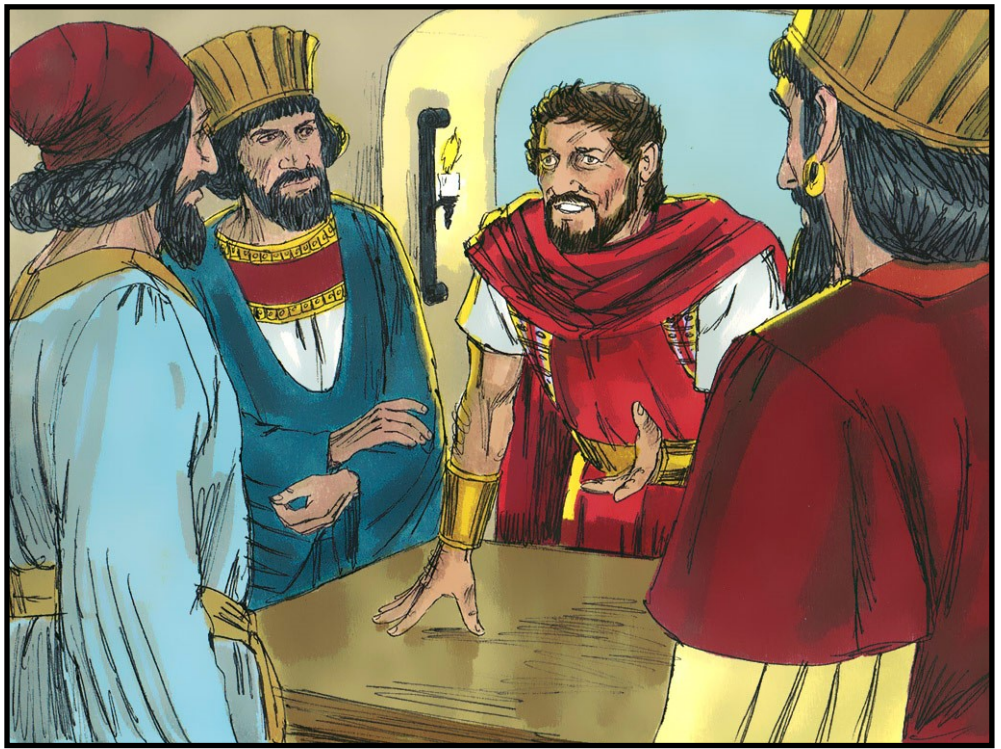
As the news spread that the Wise Men had arrived looking for a king, all of Jerusalem was stirred.



When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed. Many years before, he was appointed as king of the Jews by the Roman Senate. He did not want this “new king” to rival his power. So, he called together the chief priests and teachers of the law and asked them where the promised Messiah was supposed to be born.



“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they told him. “Because this is what was written by the prophet Micah, ‘You, Bethlehem, are not the least of the leaders of Judah. Out of you will come a King who will lead my people the Jews.’”



Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and asked them what was the exact time that the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search for the child. When you find him, come back and tell me, so I can worship him too.” But secretly King Herod was planning to kill him.



The Wise Men set off again. They saw the star just as before and were overwhelmed with joy. It led them to Bethlehem and stopped above the place where the young Jesus was staying.



The Wise Men entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. They bowed before Jesus and worshipped him. Then, they opened their gifts and presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



After this, God spoke to the Wise Men in a dream and told them not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their own country by another way.



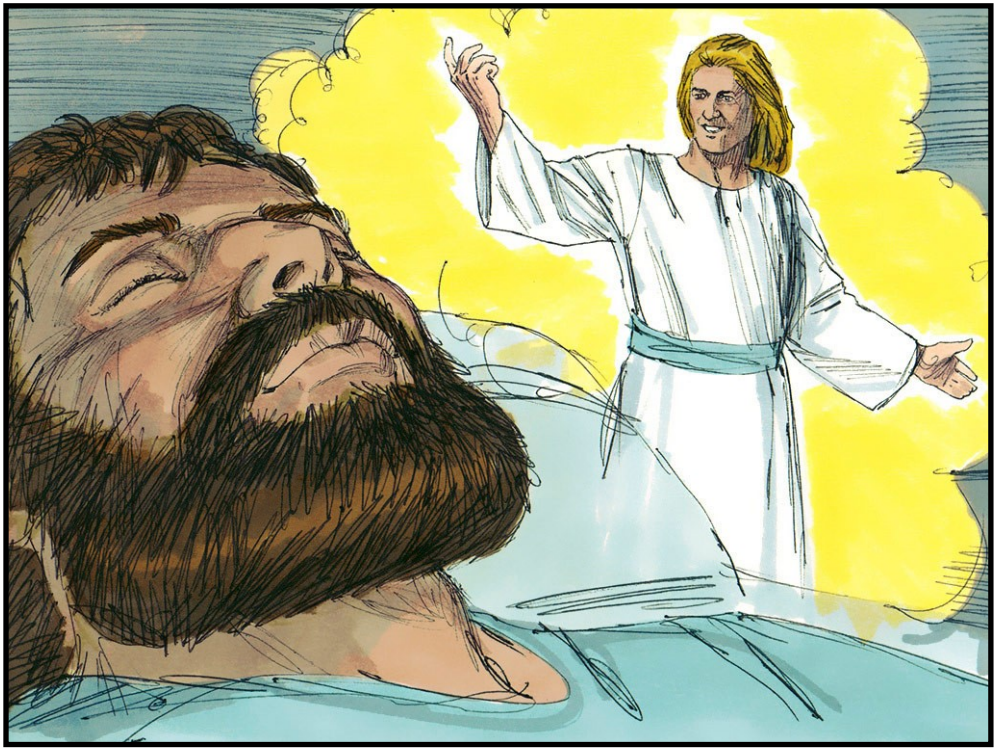
After the Wise Men had left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Get up! Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I come to you again and tell you that it’s okay to return home. Herod is about to look for the child to kill him.”



Joseph and Mary got up, took Jesus, and escaped to Egypt during the night. They stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the prophet Hosea had said, "Out of Egypt I called my Son."



When Herod realized that the Wise Men returned home without reporting to him, he was furious! He gave orders to his soldiers to kill all the boys who lived in Bethlehem who were two years old or younger.



Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod died. After his death, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go back home. The men who wanted to kill the child are dead.”



As they were coming back, an angel spoke once more to Joseph telling him to go the region of Galilee and live in the town of Nazareth. Not only would Jesus be safe there, it would also fulfill what the prophets had said—that the Messiah would be called a Nazarene.

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