

# HEROD tries to get rid of the baby king

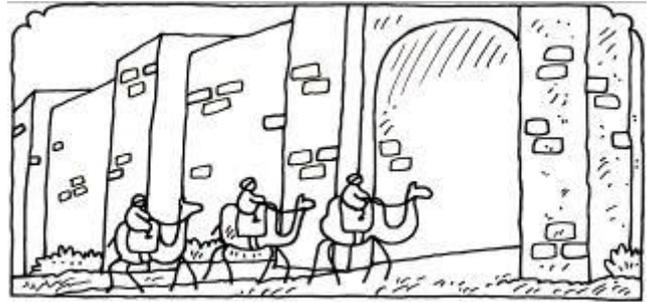
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By Jill Kemp

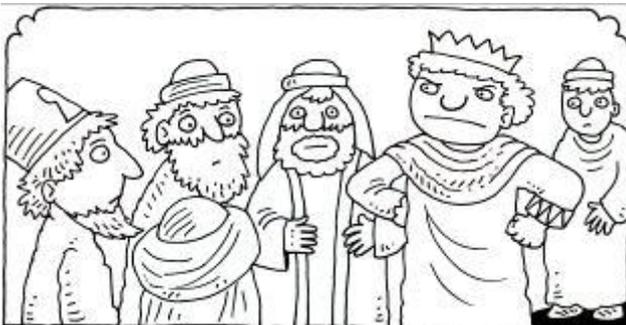
Illustrated by Richard Gunther



In a far away country in the east, lived some very wise men who studied the stars and they knew that a baby king had been born. But King Herod didn't want to lose his kingdom!



Wisemen came from the east to King Herod's palace in Jerusalem, looking for the new born King of the Jews, because they had seen His bright new star appear in the eastern sky.



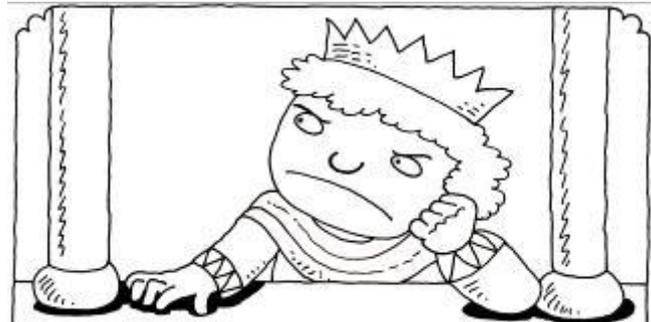
Herod and the people of Jerusalem were worried. The King asked the chief priests and teachers who studied the writings of the prophets where the Christ child would be born. "In Bethlehem," they said.



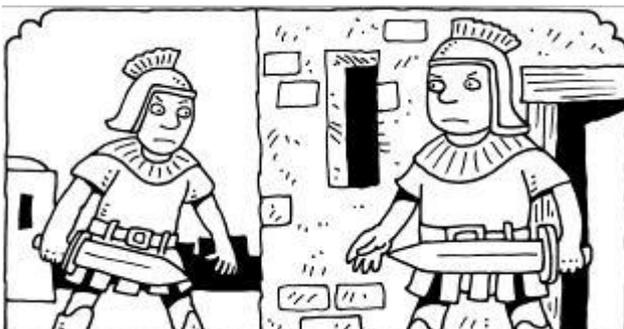
Herod asked the Wisemen when they first saw the star and sent them to Bethlehem to find the little child. "When you find him," said King Herod slyly, "come and tell me, so I can go and worship him too."



The Wisemen saw the star over the house in Bethlehem where Mary and the little child lived and went inside to give their gifts. An angel told them in a dream, not to go back to see King Herod, as he wanted to kill the child.



King Herod waited for the Wisemen to come back to tell him where to find the newborn King, so he could send his soldiers to get rid of Him. Herod didn't want anyone else to rule his kingdom!



King Herod worked out from the time the Wisemen first saw the star, that the child would be under two years old. He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to get rid of every baby boy under the age of two.



But God warned Joseph that King Herod's soldiers were coming and the family quickly hurried away to Egypt, before they arrived and the family lived there safely until King Herod died.