

## HEROD

Matthew 2:12-23

After they saw the promised king, the wise men left Bethlehem by another way, so that they did not need to travel through Jerusalem. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up. Take the young child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I bring you word. For Herod will try to find the child and kill him.

Joseph immediately did as the angel said. He took the young child and his mother during the night and they fled for Egypt.

Herod waited and waited for the return of the wise men, but they never came. Finally, Herod realized that the wise men were never going to come. He felt that he had been tricked, and he was terribly angry. Herod wanted to know where the new king was so that he could destroy him. Since he had no idea who the child might be, Herod sent his soldiers out and to murder all the children of Bethlehem and the surrounding areas. Using the date of the wise men's arrival as a guide, Herod ordered the death of any child that was two years old or younger.

So the prophecy was fulfilled that was written by the prophet in Jeremiah 31:15, which said: "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they were not."

What a wicked man Herod was. He was so greedy for power that he was willing to murder hundreds of babies. But God is greater than any wicked king. He knew all of Herod's thoughts and intentions, and was always one step ahead of him. The Lord would not allow Satan, through the wicked Herod, to destroy his Son the Messiah. There is no power in heaven above, or on the earth below, that can thwart the will of God. God will always keep his promise, on that you can depend! God promised to send the Messiah when the time was right, so that all the world might be saved, and God kept that promise.

After a time Herod died. Then the angel of the Lord again appeared to Joseph in a dream in Egypt, saying, "Get up. Take the young child and his mother, and go back to Israel. Those who wanted to kill him are dead."

Joseph got up. He took the child Jesus and his mother, and returned to the land of Israel. This fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea 11:1, which said, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Joseph heard that Archelaus ruled in Judea in the place of his father Herod, and he was afraid to go back to Bethlehem. God warned Joseph in a dream to settle his family in Galilee. Joseph took his family to the city of Nazareth, and settled there instead of going back to Bethlehem. This too fulfilled a prophecy which said, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

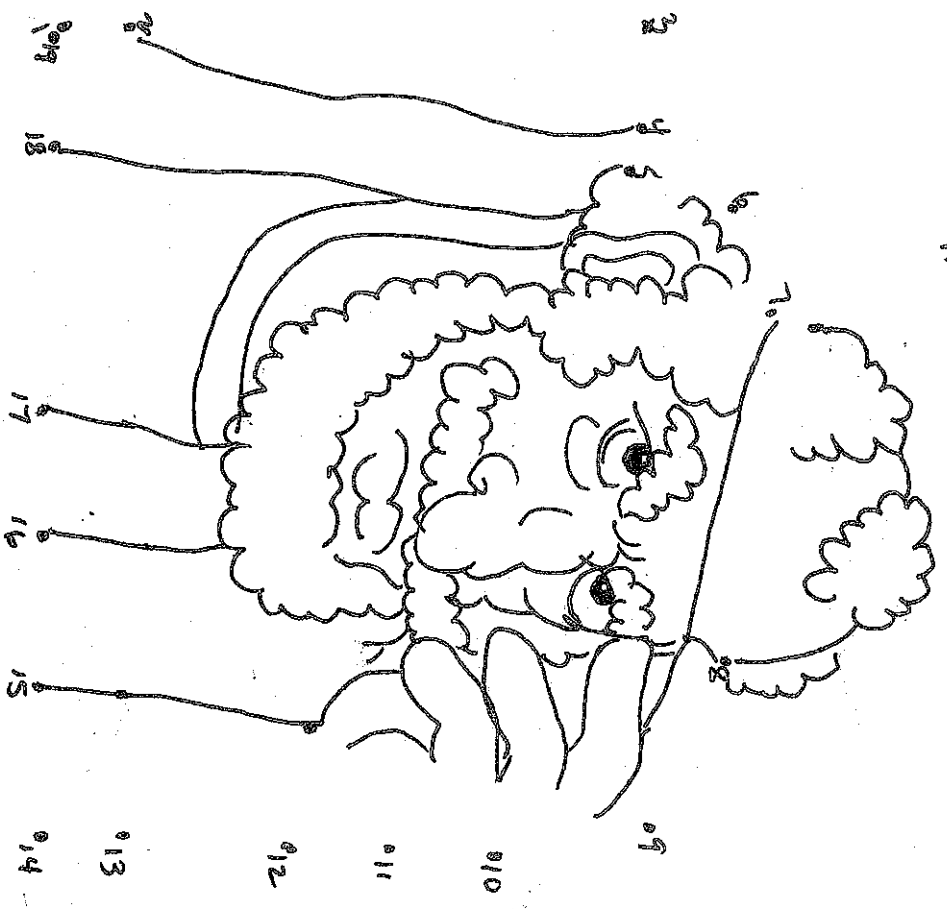
As we follow all the prophecy in the Old Testament about the first coming of Christ, and see it fulfilled in the birth and life of Jesus, we can see the power of God, who is able to tell us of a coming event hundreds of years before it happens. As we look at the prophecies concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ, we can be assured that these prophecies too will all be fulfilled exactly as God says. For he has the power to know the future and to bring to pass what he desires. There is no king or ruler that can keep his will from being done, for he directs even those who hate him, to do what his will.

**LEARN:** The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

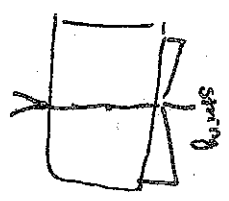
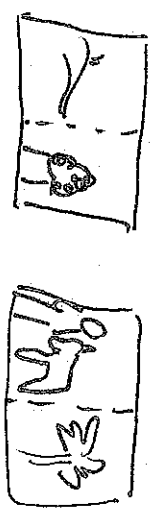
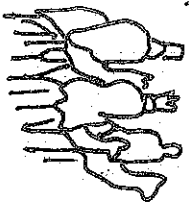
Proverbs 21:1

Using 2 sheets of construction paper, make a booklet of this story. Paste the pictures in proper sequence. Tie the 2 sheets together with a string after making a center fold.

Do Xmas dot to dot. Color him and cut him out and paste on proper page.

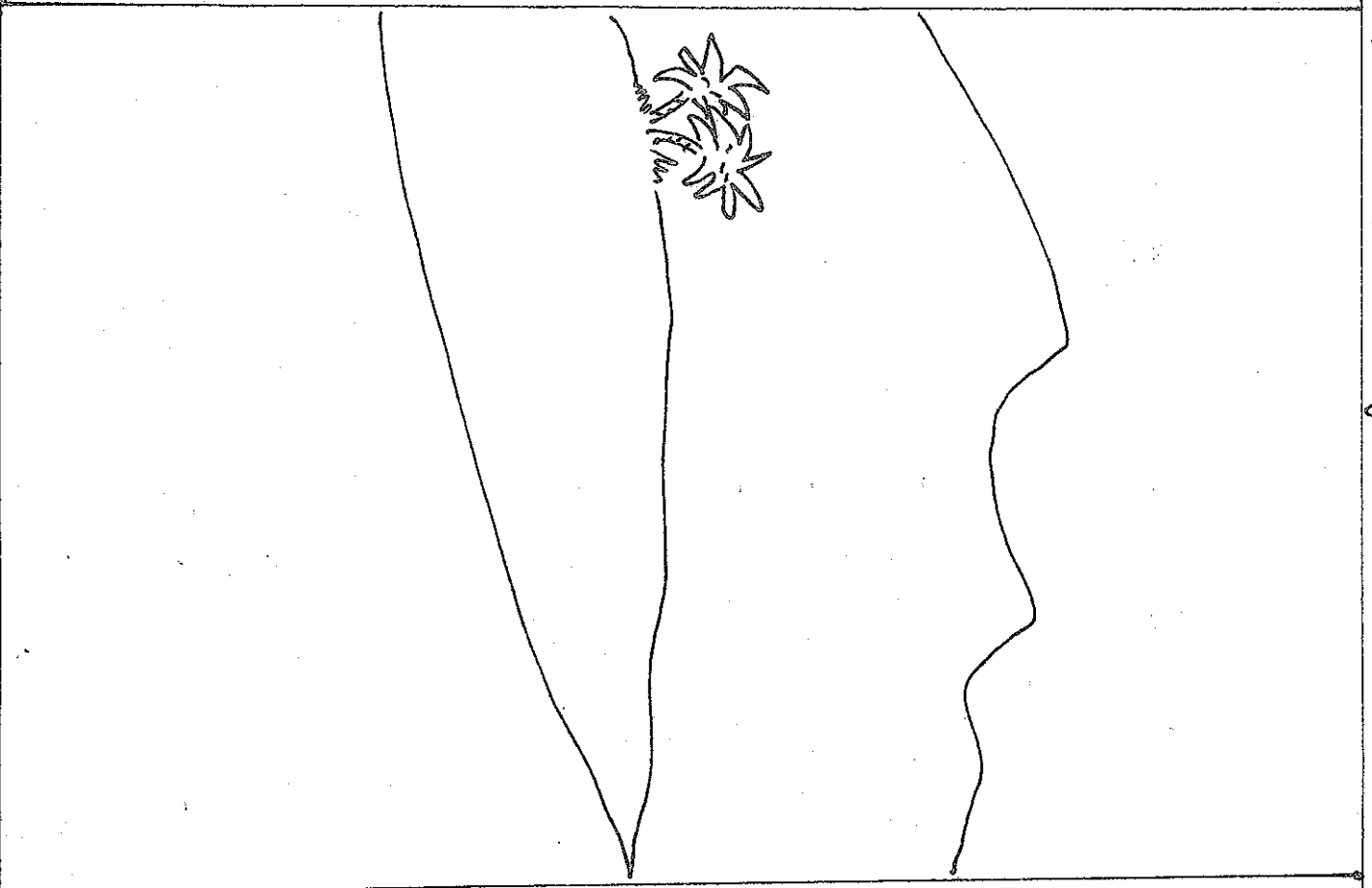


Color these wise men - Cut them out and paste them in the correct scene.



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color this scene. cut it out and  
paste in proper sequence.



color Joseph and his family. cut them out  
and paste on the black page.

