

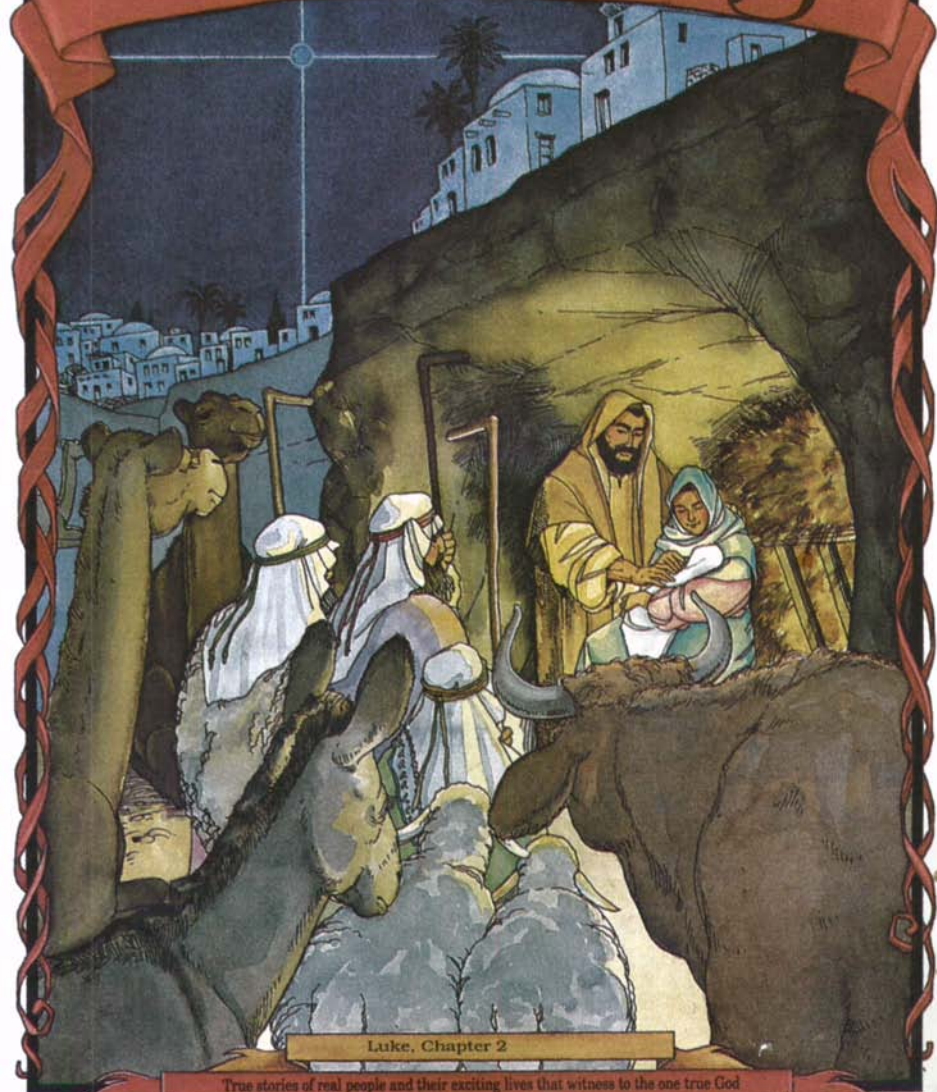
VOL. 1

NO. 4

CENTER for
EVANGELISM and
CHURCH MINISTRY

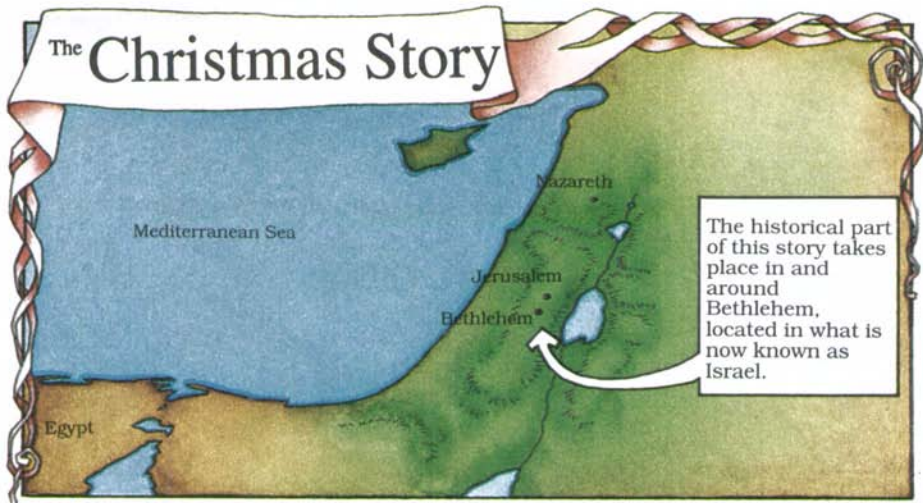


THE Christmas Story



Luke, Chapter 2

True stories of real people and their exciting lives that witness to the one true God



Written by Ron Barefield

Illustrated by Jerry and Faith McCollough

Published by ICI University, a division of Global University

This comic book presents the story of the birth of Jesus. It is both a wonderful and a tragic story. It is wonderful because Jesus, the Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to save us from our sins. It is tragic because Jesus had to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

It had been over 400 years since the last Old Testament prophet had spoken. Everyone was looking for the coming of the Messiah, the king of Israel, who would deliver His people. Even the wicked King Herod's advisors knew about His coming. Herod tried to kill baby Jesus, but God delivered Him. God sent angels to show some shepherds where Jesus had been born and later the wise men from the east arrived and worshipped Him.

This is a story of hope, because it is about a child, the baby Jesus who came into the world as a helpless infant. Because of the care of His parents, He was able to grow to manhood and complete the mission given to Him by His Heavenly Father. His life gives us hope that we can count on God's help for our lives also.

First Edition 1992

Hey, Uncle Rufus, you're just in time. Herbie has written a Christmas play and tonight we're presenting it in our clubhouse!

Yeah, this is the **WORLD PREMIERE!**

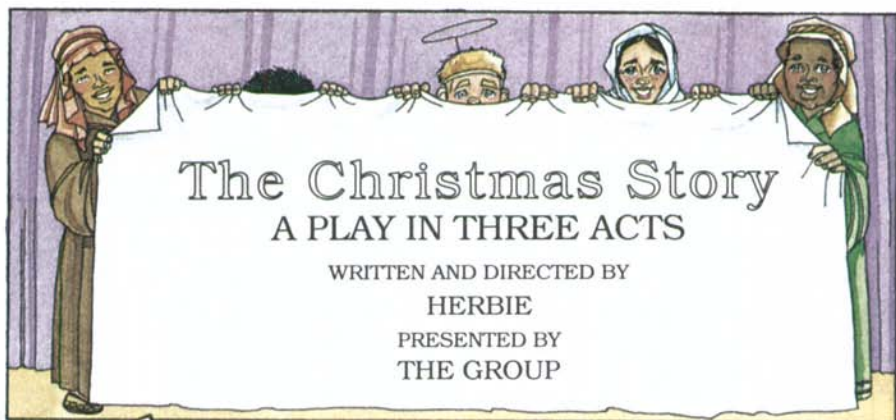
Could you watch it and let us know if we get everything right?

If we're good enough they might want to put us on television.

Or better than that...

...in a comic book.





ACT I

MARY!!! What do you mean you're expecting a baby. We aren't even married yet.

And you're going to name him Jesus!!! Don't I have something to do with this?

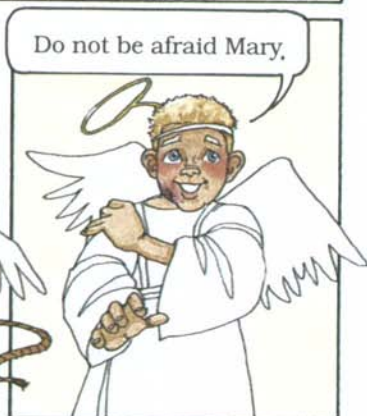


MARY!!! What do you mean you're expecting a baby? We aren't even married yet.

This angel named Gabriel came to me and this is what he said:







I don't care what any angel said, Mary. What am I going to tell my father?



What am I going to tell YOUR father?



Everybody in Nazareth will be talking about us.

Don't you care about me, Joseph?



Well, yes I do!



Well, God will let you know.



One night an angel came to Joseph.



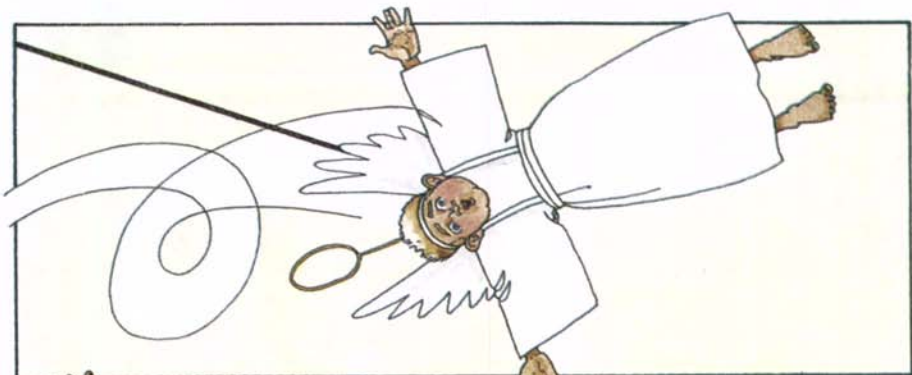
One night an angel came to Joseph.



ONE NIGHT AN ANGEL CAME TO JOSEPH!!!



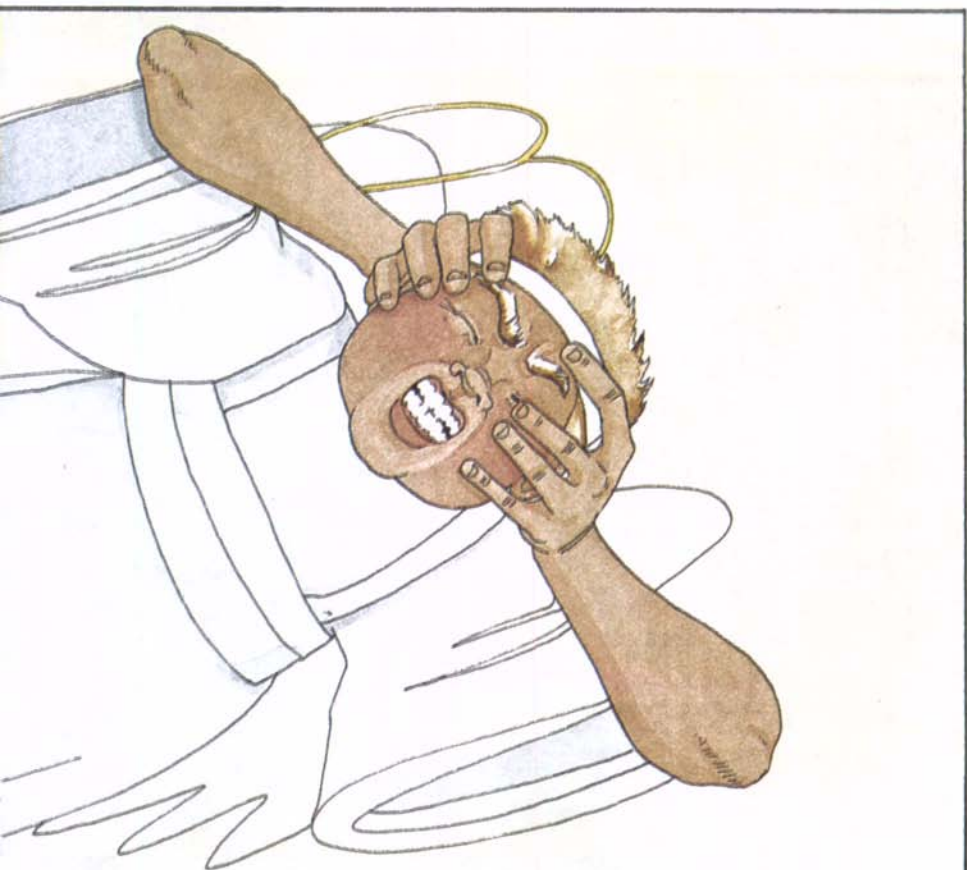






You must call the child
Jesus for He will save
His people from their
sins.



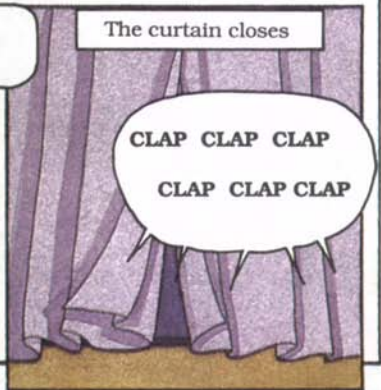


Mary, the angel came to me in a dream and explained everything to me.



Let's get married.

The curtain closes



CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP

ACT II

Mary, Mary....

Caesar Aug...us...tus (whew) has said that we must go to Bethlehem, the City of David and register our name and our property.

But we can't go. You're expecting baby Jesus.

The trip will be too much on you.

We must go, Joseph. The king has ordered it.





They set out on their journey.



I'm sorry, but there is no room in the inn.



But my wife is expecting a baby and this dog ride...I mean this donkey ride...all the way from Nazareth has been very difficult for her.



Well, you can stay in my stable. It's not too nice.



There are a lot of animals in it. But you're welcome to it.

We must take it, Joseph.







ACT III



Suddenly a great light shone around the shepherds.



What is it?

That same night there were some shepherds watching their sheep on the hills outside the city of Bethlehem.

Then an angel appeared to them.

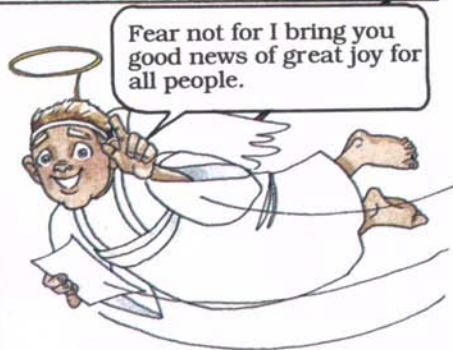


Then an angel appeared to them.

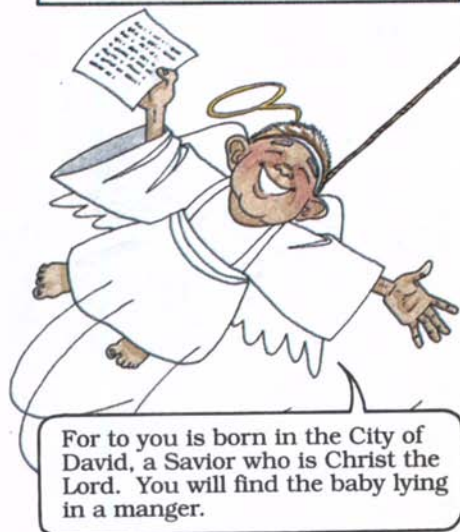


THEN AN ANGEL APPEARED TO THEM!!!





Fear not for I bring you good news of great joy for all people.



For to you is born in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. You will find the baby lying in a manger.



Then the sky was filled with a great choir of angels... singing their praise to God.

However, due to technical difficulties beyond our control, we will not be able to show the choir of angels!!!



Let's go and see what the baby looks like.



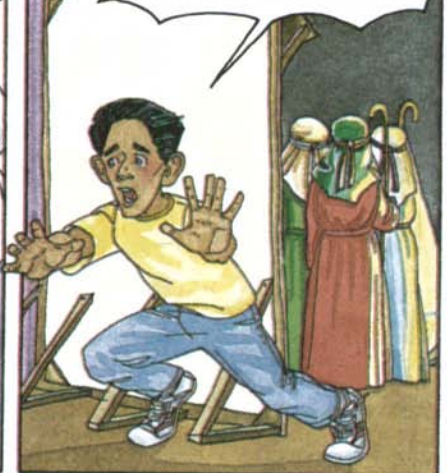
They travel to Bethlehem.



An angel told us that the Savior has been born here. Could we come in and see him?



ANGEL. They said angel.

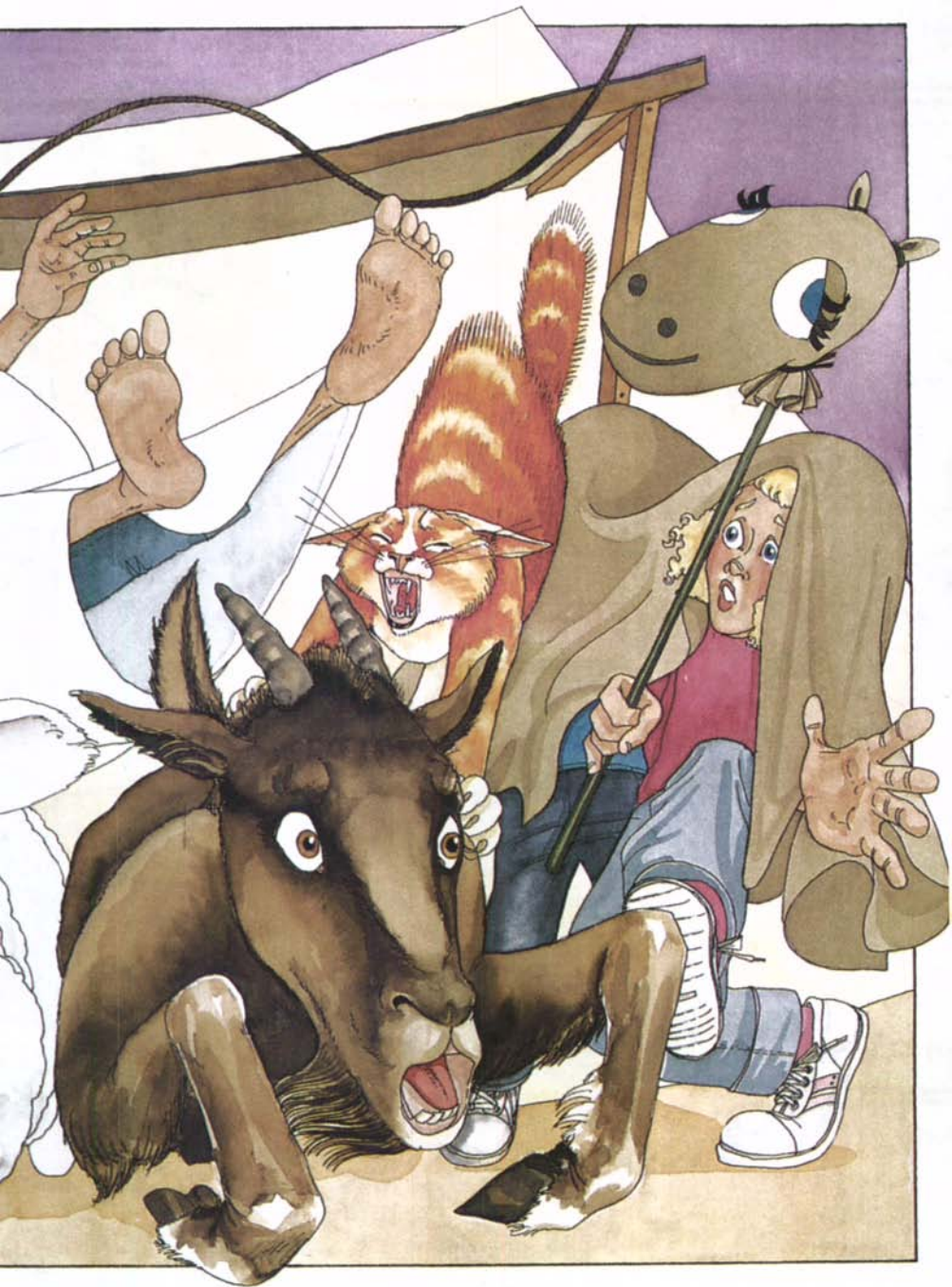


We have to get an angel out there quick. Where's the angel?

We've gotta get an angel out there!!!









We're sorry, Herbie.

Yeah, we're sorry we ruined the play.

We blew it, Uncle Rufus!



Disssssaster!!!

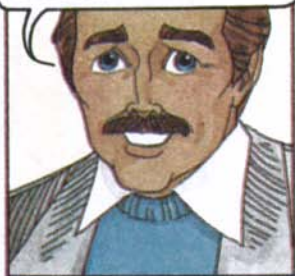


I'm sorry we messed up, Uncle Rufus. You'll have to tell the kids reading this comic book the rest of the story.



Yes, you did mess up. But you did try. That is the most important thing. That is all anyone can ever ask of you in life. Just give it your best. That is all God requires. He takes care of the rest.

Know what, kids? I've travelled all over the world and have seen a lot of plays on the birth of Jesus but this one is the best I've ever seen.



You're just being kind, Uncle Rufus.



No, it was fantastic! Tell me, Herbie, how were you going to end the play tonight?



I was going to tell the people about how Jesus wasn't just a person who lived long ago but was alive today in my heart.



I was going to give them a chance to accept Jesus into their lives.

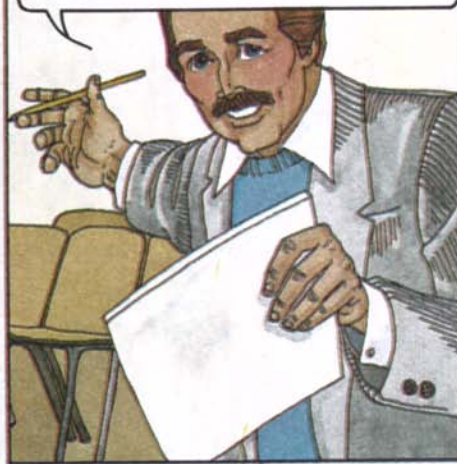
Why don't you tell the rest of the story and I'll help you by drawing things like they happened two thousand years ago.



Where should I start?



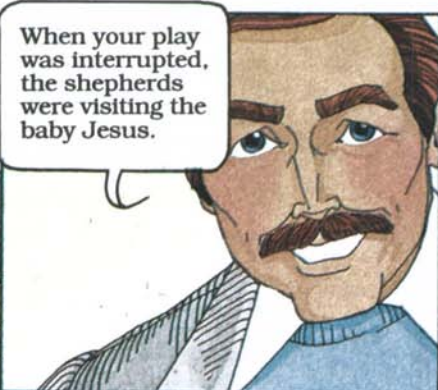
Well, in the play we've seen how the angel Gabriel came to Mary and Joseph...



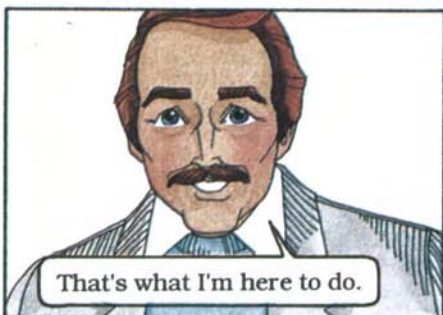
...and how they had to go to Bethlehem for the census and ended up staying in a stable because they had no room for them in the inn.



When your play was interrupted, the shepherds were visiting the baby Jesus.



Okay, here I go, but I need help.



That's what I'm here to do.

About that time some very smart men, Wisemen we call them, saw a new star.



That new star is brighter than all the rest.



It must have special meaning.

Let's follow it.



After several weeks of travel, the Wisemen reached Jerusalem.



King Herod was a very wicked king. He had committed many murders to protect his throne.



The new king of the Jews must live in a palace. Let's go there and check with king Herod.



My advisers tell me the sacred scriptures say the child was to be born in Bethlehem. Go there for me and find him. When you find him, come back and let me know where he is so that I may come and worship him.

They don't know it but when they find this baby, they are sentencing him to death. I'll have him killed.

I'm the king of the Jews.



The Wisemen followed the star from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. It led them to the house where Mary, Joseph, and the growing baby Jesus lived.



We have come to worship the king of the Jews.

We bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*



* Gold is the gift for a king. Frankincense is the gift for a priest. Myrrh is the gift for one who is to die. Even at the cradle of Christ, they foretold that he was to be the true King, High Priest, and in the end, the Supreme Savior of men.

The Wisemen were prepared to go back to Jerusalem to tell King Herod about the baby Jesus but during the night they had a dream and instead went home in another direction.



That night an angel...



Watch out Herbie, an angel!



That same night an angel appeared to Joseph telling him to escape to Egypt.



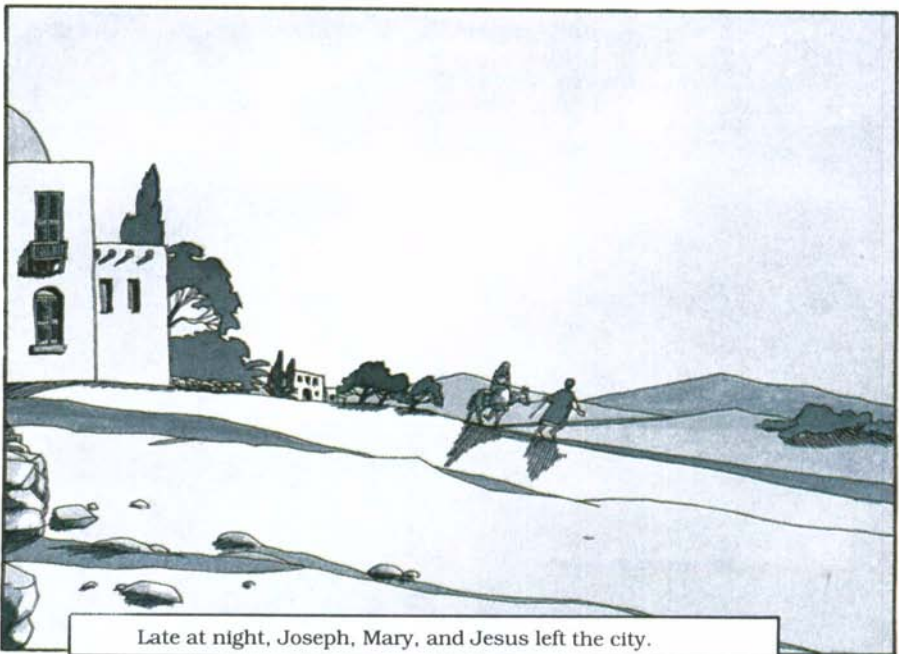
Mary, Mary, wake up. King Herod wants to kill Jesus! An angel told me to go to Egypt.



Kill Jesus? Why would anyone want to kill this precious baby?



I don't know. But I suppose he feels threatened by Him.



Late at night, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus left the city.

Meanwhile back in Jerusalem:

How dare those
Wisemen not
come back and
report to me!!!



I know what I'll do. Make this an official
decree. Kill every baby boy in Bethlehem. I'll
be rid of him. He'll never take over my throne.

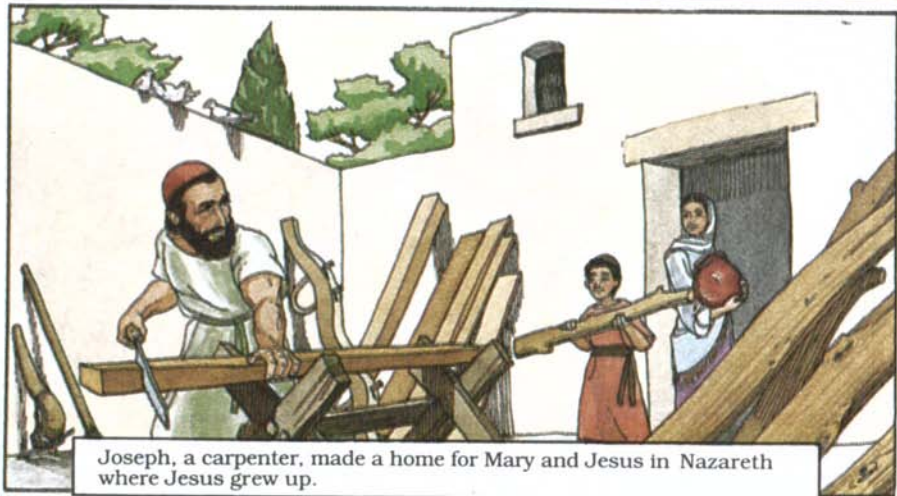


His orders were carried out. Baby boys
were killed all over Bethlehem...

...but Jesus was safe in Egypt.



After a few months, an angel told Joseph it was safe to go back to Nazareth because the wicked king Herod was dead.



Joseph, a carpenter, made a home for Mary and Jesus in Nazareth where Jesus grew up.



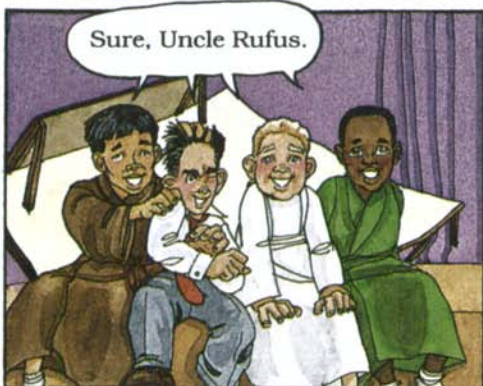
With that many angels in the story, we never would have made it to the end, Uncle Rufus.



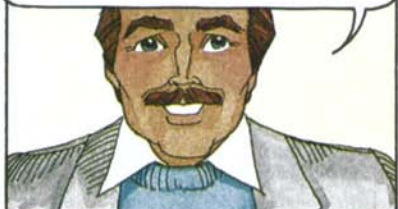
Kids, can I tell you a little more about Jesus?



Sure, Uncle Rufus.



Christmas is a great time of the year. People in many parts of the world celebrate Christmas in many different ways. But it is our goal that everyone knows the real meaning of Christmas.



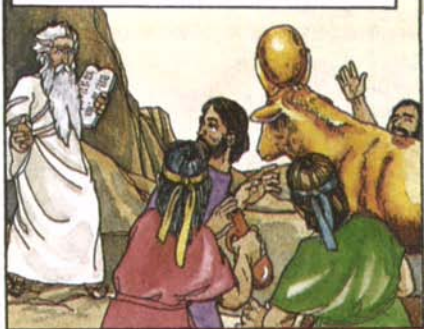
God made man perfect, but Satan corrupted mankind through his temptation in the Garden of Eden.



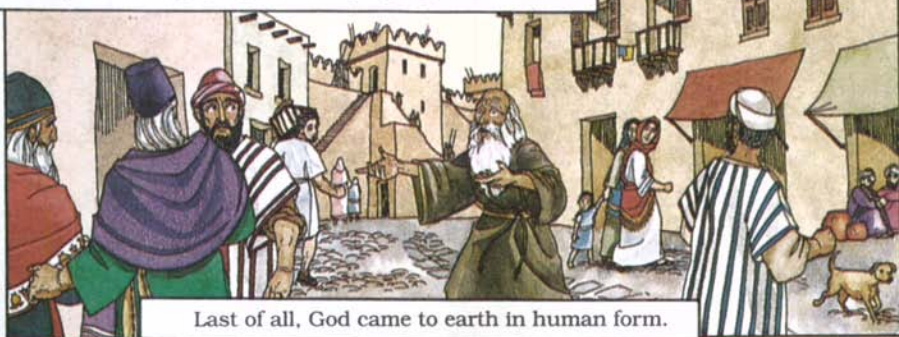
God needed to bring mankind back into a right relationship with Him, so he spoke through godly men, but people wouldn't listen.



He gave them His laws, but they couldn't obey them.



He spoke through prophets, but people ignored them.



Last of all, God came to earth in human form.

He was born of a virgin, and experienced life as we experience it.

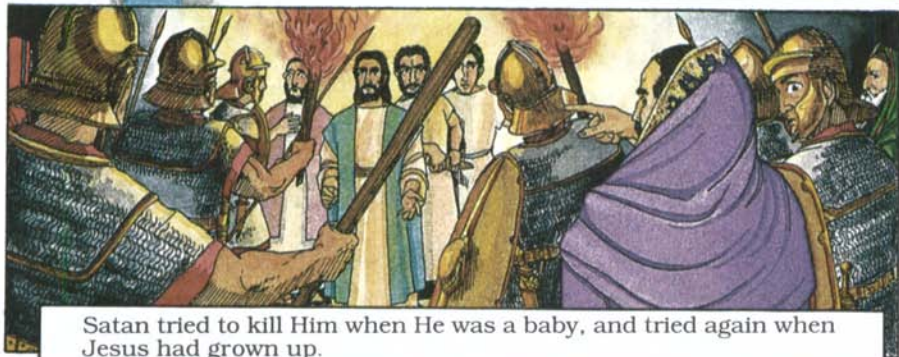


Did He ever have a play explode, Uncle Rufus?



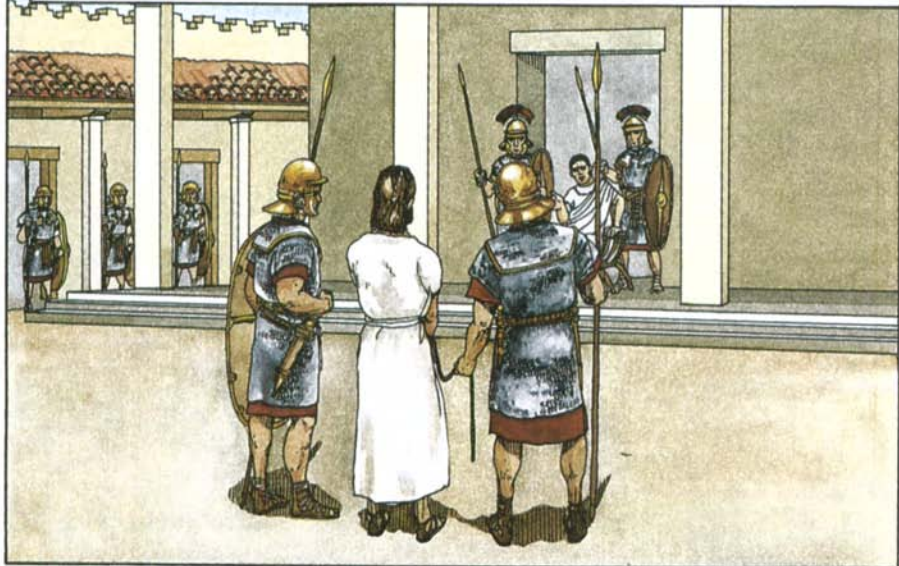


No, I doubt if He did. But He did have problems and temptations just like you and I have. He had disappointments just like you and I have, but He never sinned. He lived a blameless life.



Satan tried to kill Him when He was a baby, and tried again when Jesus had grown up.

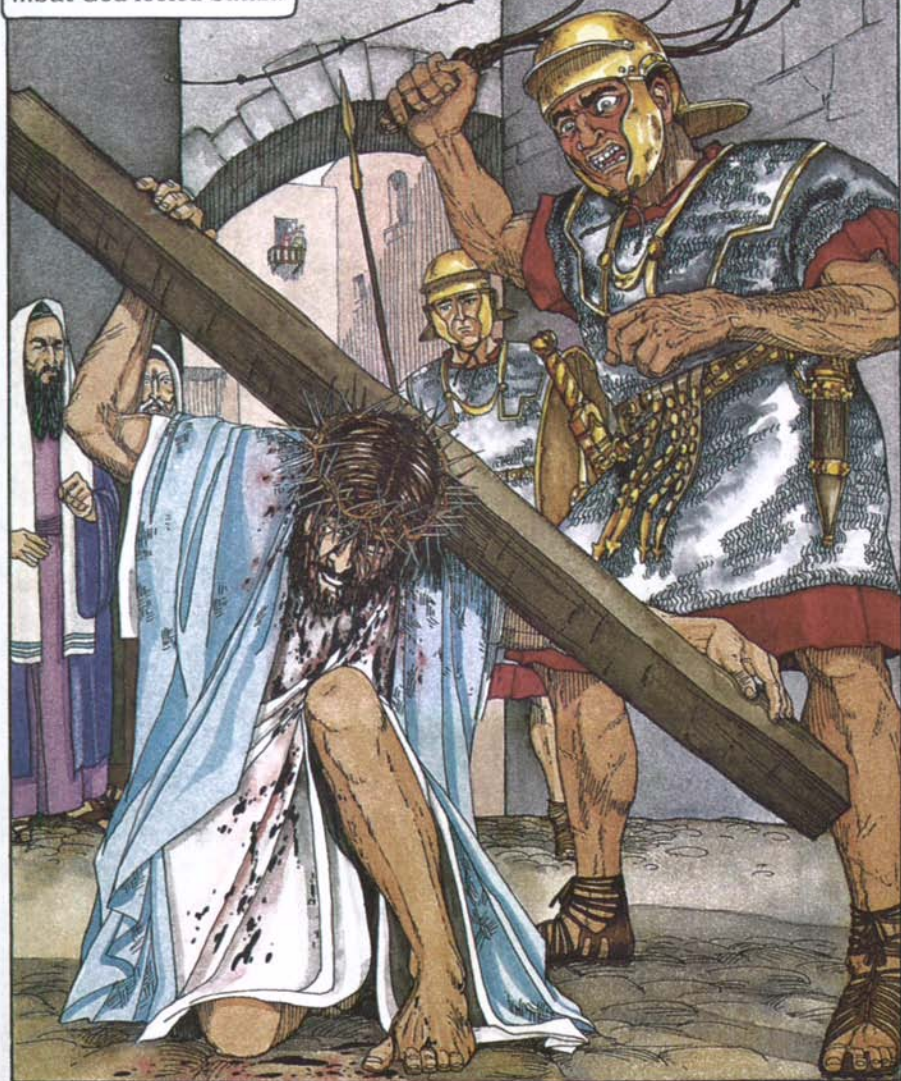
Satan used the religious and political leaders to hold an illegal trial to convict Jesus of crimes He didn't commit, and put Him to death on the cross,...

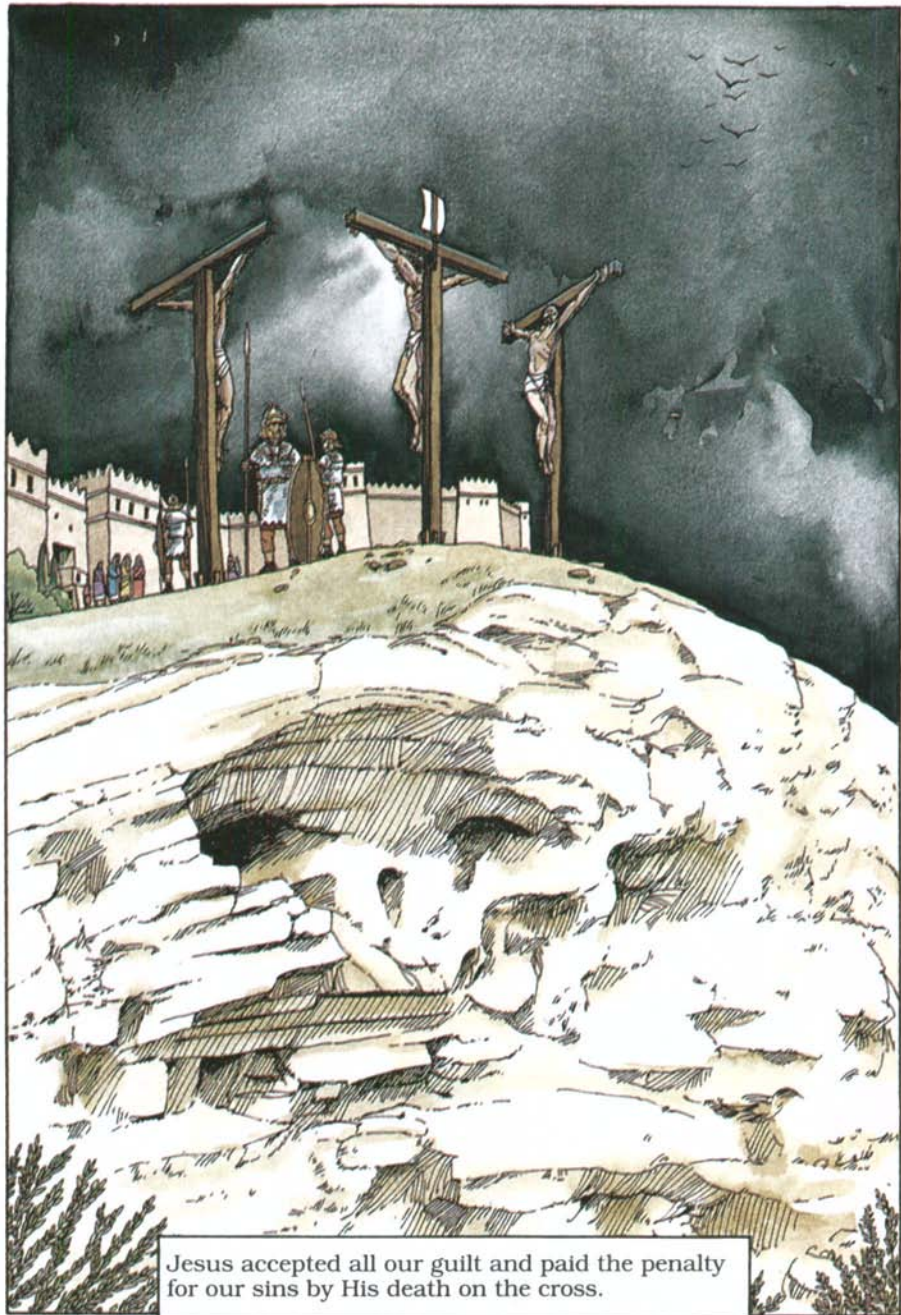




He used Jesus' death to be the final sacrifice for all the sins mankind ever committed, is committing, or will commit.

...but God fooled Satan.



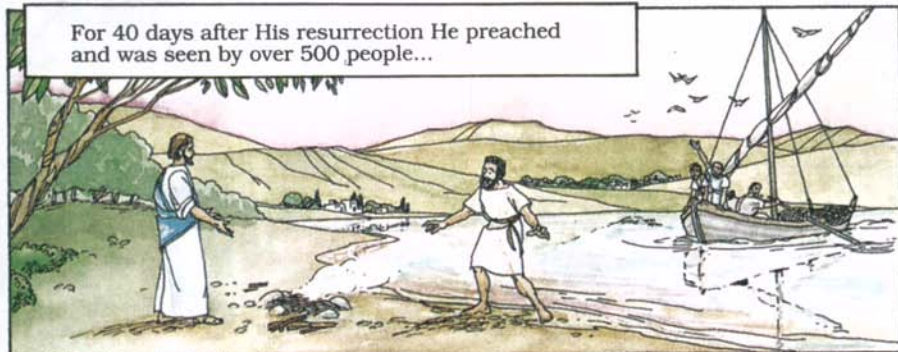


Jesus accepted all our guilt and paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross.

Then He defeated death and arose to life after three days.



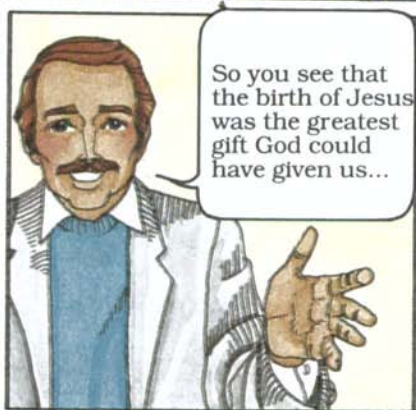
For 40 days after His resurrection He preached and was seen by over 500 people...



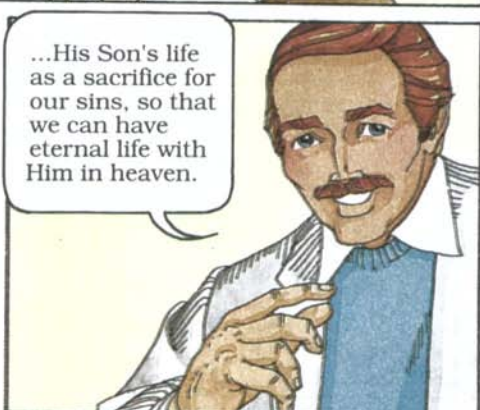
...before rising up to return to heaven.



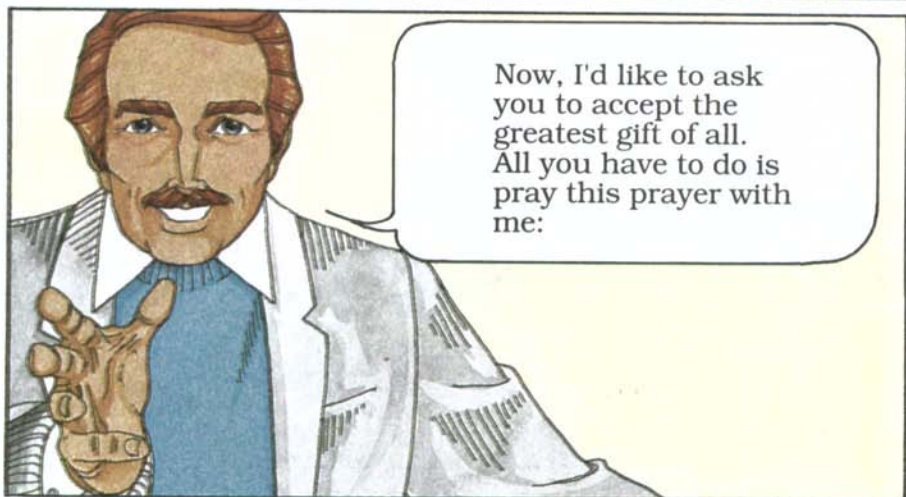
Now, all we have to do to be saved from eternal hell is to ask Jesus into our hearts, to be Lord and Savior of our lives.



So you see that the birth of Jesus was the greatest gift God could have given us...



...His Son's life as a sacrifice for our sins, so that we can have eternal life with Him in heaven.



Now, I'd like to ask you to accept the greatest gift of all. All you have to do is pray this prayer with me:



Jesus, I acknowledge that you are God's Son. I accept you as my Savior. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. Please come into my heart and guide me in the way I should go.



That's all there is to it.



Now, you should read the Bible to learn more about Jesus and His teaching. Please go to a church that believes in and teaches the Bible.



Remember that you can talk to God whenever you want--that is called praying. He speaks to you as you read the Bible, and the Holy Spirit will help you understand what it says. God loves you and wants you to make Him part of your life.

...and tell someone else.

Also available
in this series

DAVID



GIDEON



ESTHER



Wisemen from the East follow the star
that has appeared to lead them
to the newborn King of the Jews.

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