

JESUS ESCAPES FROM THE WICKED KING





ON THE first Christmas day, when the Baby Jesus was born, there was a very bad king named Herod living in a big palace nearby. God had put a bright new star in the sky when His Son Jesus was born. But the bad King Herod could not see it, even when he looked out the window. His heart was too wicked. God did not show His star to the bad King.





HE BAD King Herod heard some people talking. "God's Son has been born," the people said. "When He grows up He will be our king."

King Herod was so bad, he did not want God's Son around near him. He did not want Jesus to grow up and be king. "I'm the only king around here," he said.

Herod tried to find out where Jesus was, so he could kill the little Baby. What a wicked, mean old king Herod was!



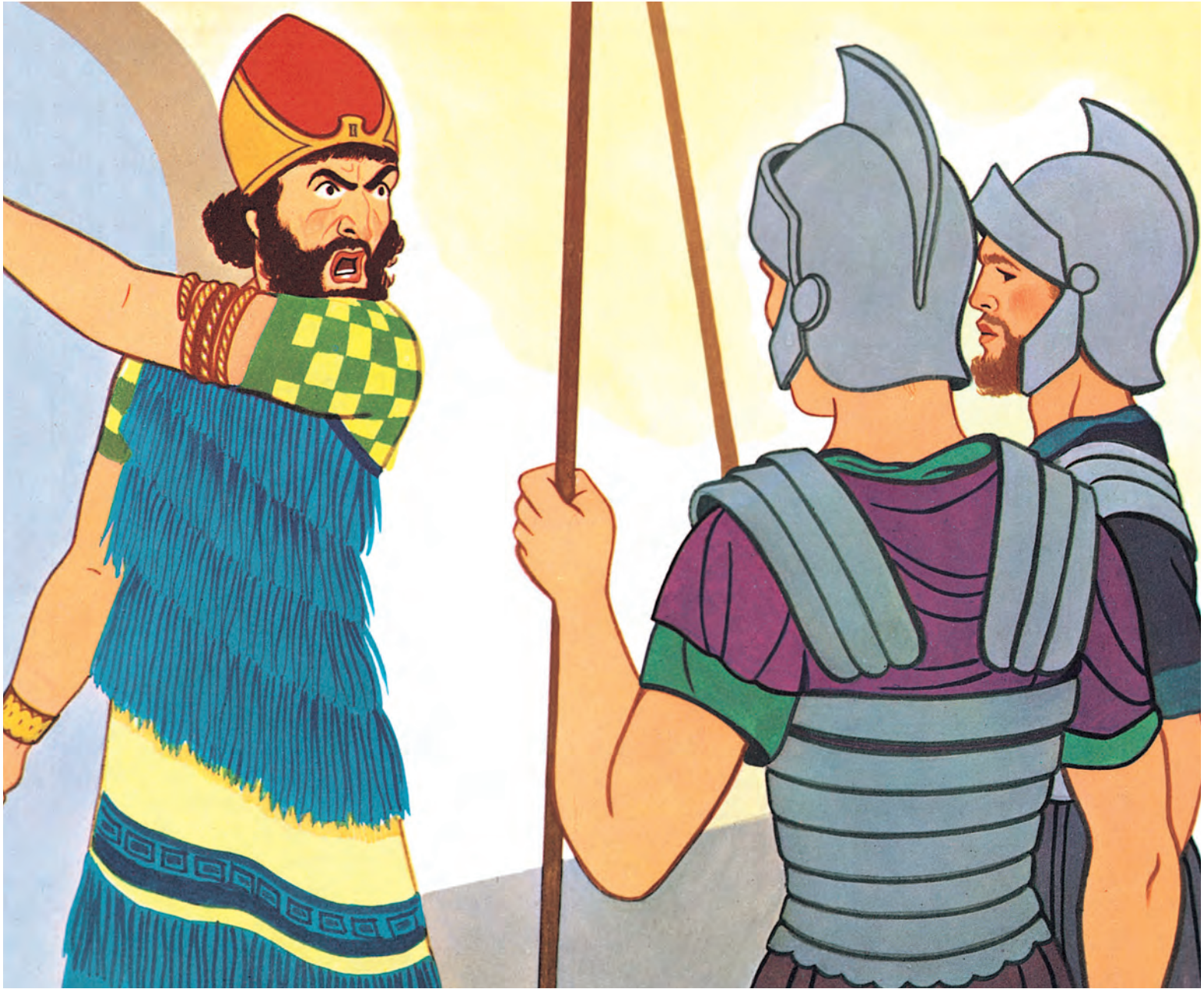


HERE IS that little King?" asked King Herod.

"We don't know exactly, but He's somewhere in Bethlehem," they told him.

Herod got so mad, he jumped up and down and yelled.

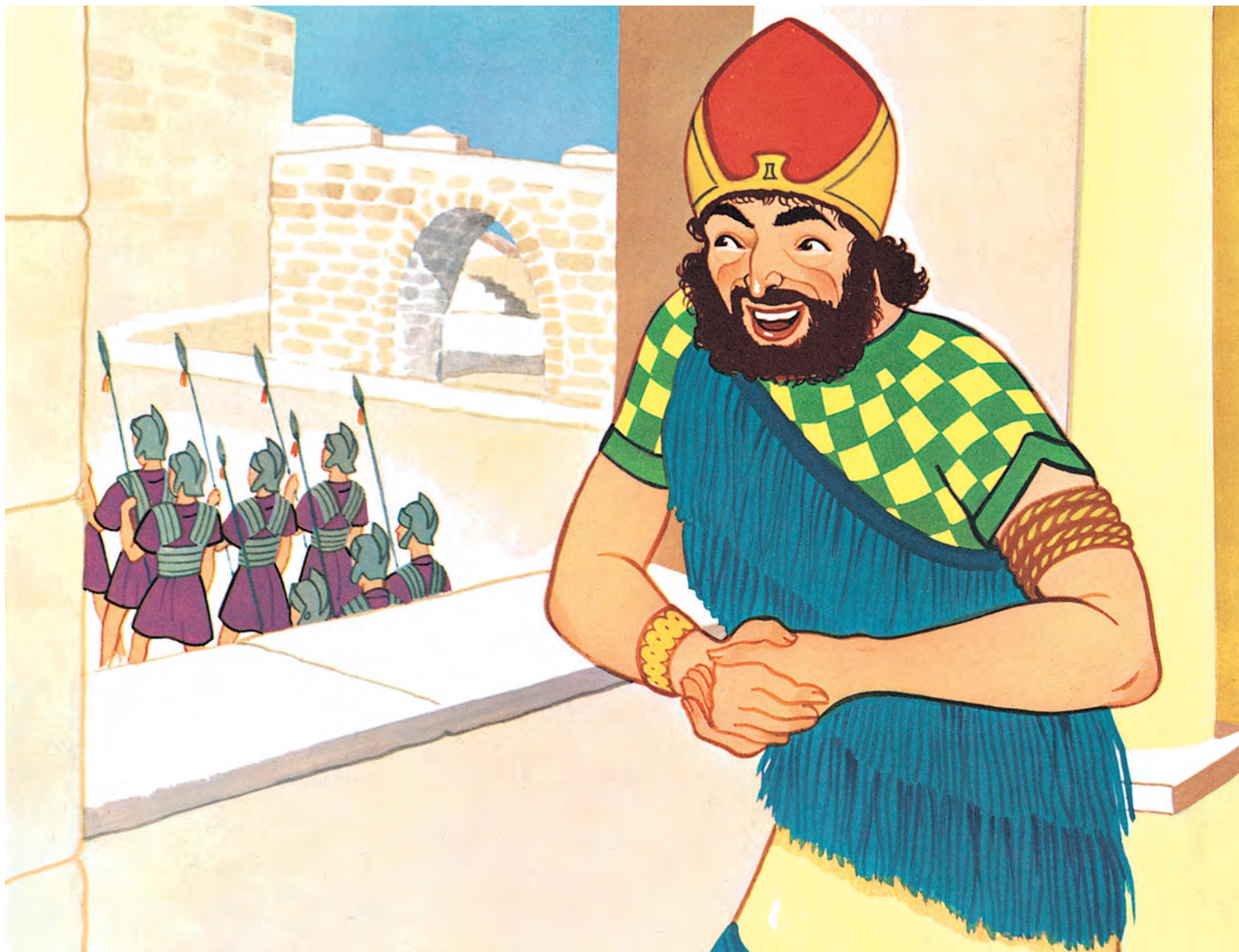
"All you soldiers, take your spears and swords. Go out and kill all the boy babies in Bethlehem. Kill *every one* of them. I'll have no little kings growing up around me!"





THE SOLDIERS started off in a big hurry, to do what Herod said. The King smiled to himself and rubbed his hands together. “Ah ha!” he said. “Baby Jesus will be killed this very day!”

But Herod was wrong. Something was happening in the dark night, and he knew nothing about it.





THE WICKED King Herod was sitting up late. He could not sleep because he was still so mad about the Child Jesus being born. Right outside his window an Angel was passing by, but he did not know it. The Angel was going to Bethlehem. The Angel woke Saint Joseph and whispered in his ear: "Hurry! Get up! Take the Child and His Mother and go to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back."

