

**H**ere is the story of the birth of Jesus. A long, long time ago, even before the earth was created, God lived in heaven in the form of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The one thing they had in common was great love, which they wanted to share with others. That is why God decided to create men with whom He could share His love. But the man needed a place to live, and so God created the earth for him, covered parts of it with water and filled it with plants and animals. Having prepared such a wonderful dwelling, God gave life to man—a person in His own image. He created a man and a woman. He poured His love into their hearts and gave them eternal life in happiness. God Himself visited with them every day taking joy in their love. The people loved Him and they too enjoyed His presence.

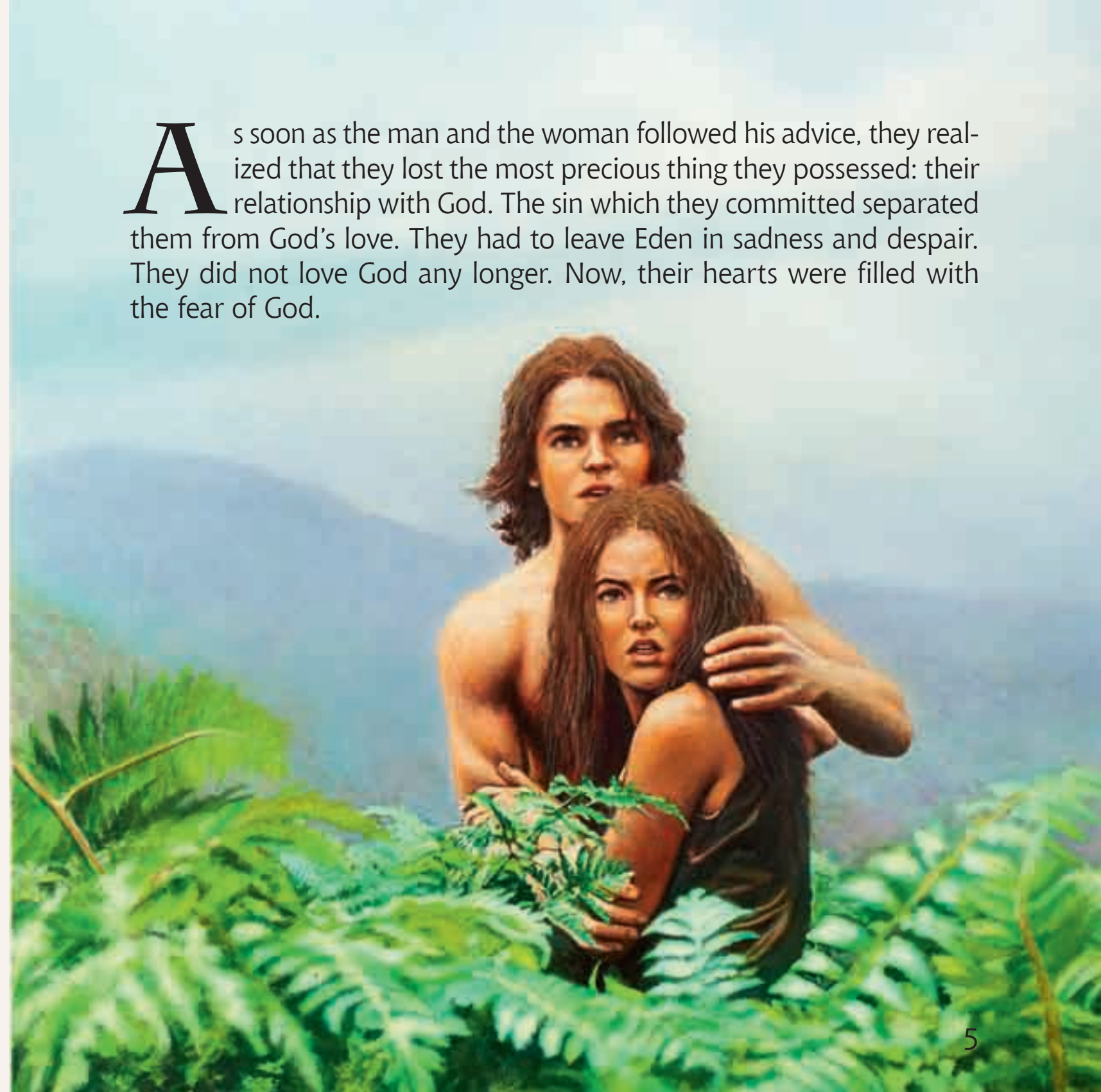




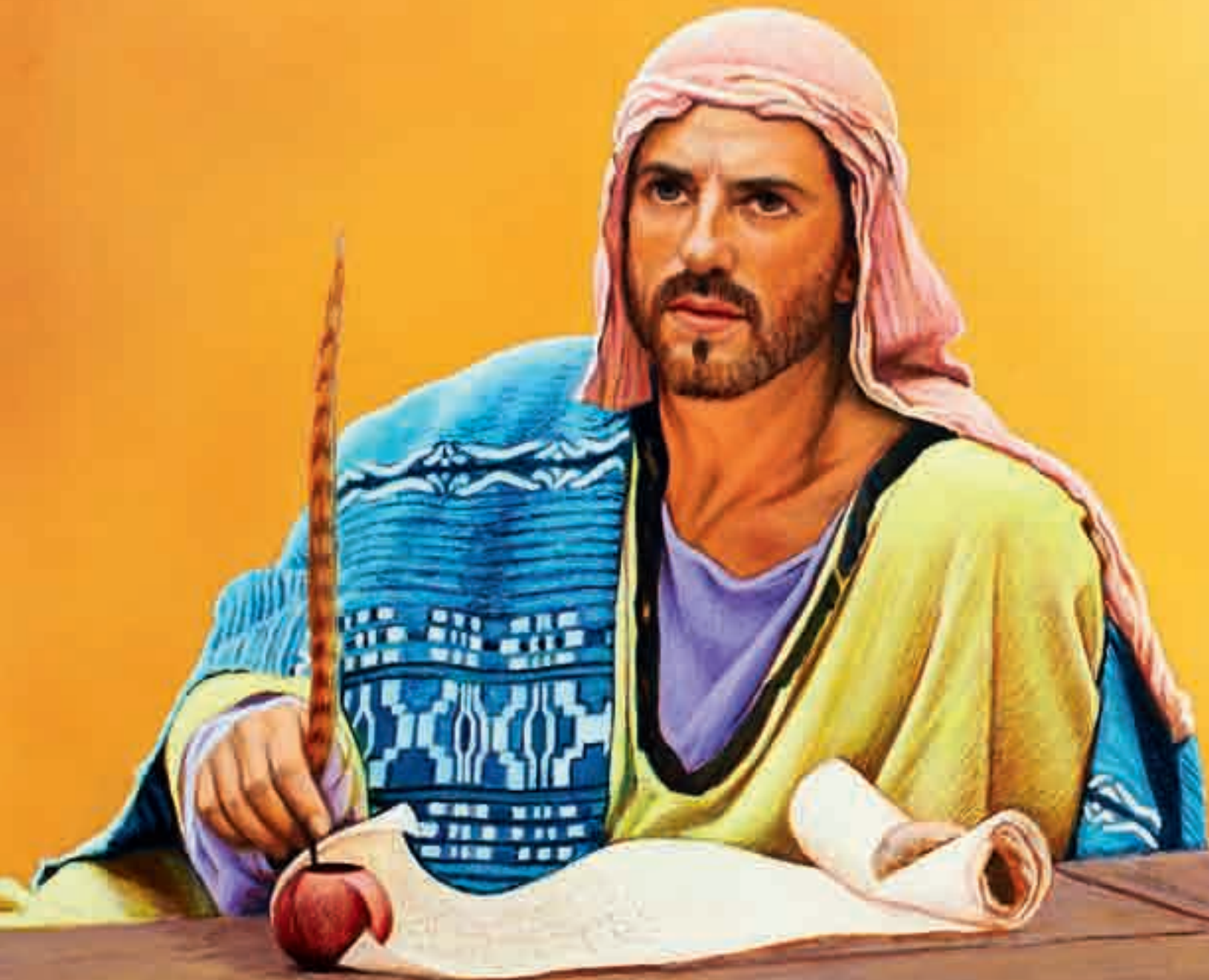


**T**he Garden of Eden, as God called the place He gave to the people, was once visited by a creature which was disobedient towards God. It was one of God's former servants who did not like His love. In the past, this creature stood against God, and now took the form of a snake and lived close to where the people were. His plan, however, was not to make friends with the people. His goal was to destroy the relations the people had with God. He hated the love that was between God and the people and decided to do everything possible to snatch people away from God. In order to make it possible, he was prepared to lie, cheat, promise things that were not true, and break his promises. By lying, he managed to persuade the people to disobey God, which was a sinful thing to do.

**A**s soon as the man and the woman followed his advice, they realized that they lost the most precious thing they possessed: their relationship with God. The sin which they committed separated them from God's love. They had to leave Eden in sadness and despair. They did not love God any longer. Now, their hearts were filled with the fear of God.







**B**ut God did not stop loving them. And though their disobedience caused Him grief, as a token of His love, He promised them to visit the earth again one day, but this time in the person of His own Son who would deliver them from the slavery of sin.

Many hundreds of years passed. There were more people living on earth the descendants of those who had to leave Eden. Most of them were afraid of God and did not even want to think about Him. Others, however, heard the stories of their ancestors and their disobedience made them feel very sorry. In their hearts there was a longing for life in peace with God. They wished they could feel the love and joy which comes from the fellowship with the Almighty God. People like that found favor in the eyes of God. Among them were Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. God decided that He would show some of them how He planned to rebuild their relationship with Himself. Those people, who received special instructions from God, were called the prophets.

One of the greatest prophets was named Isaiah. This man loved God very much and the Lord was the greatest desire of his soul. God decided to delight him by telling him His Son would visit the people on earth. God revealed to him that His Son would be born as a little baby and deliver people from their sins, so that the love and the relationship of people with God could be rebuilt. Isaiah was very pleased with

what God revealed to Him. He carefully wrote everything down, so that other people could take joy in the

Good News of the coming Son of God,  
the Savior.





**M**any people, having heard the prophets, changed their ways and hopefully awaited the coming of God's Son, whom they called the Messiah. Their hearts were changing when they listened to the news of God's love. They did not want to disobey God anymore. They wanted to hear God's message every day. This did not please Satan, that rebellious, former servant of God. In order to prevent the Good News from being spread amongst

people, he tried to bring suffering on the prophets and wanted them to be thrown in jail or taken into slavery. But he could not do too much, because he is not nearly as powerful as God.

Many years after Isaiah, another prophet appeared. His name was Jeremiah. He too loved God very much and wanted to obey Him. Jeremiah's heart was filled with grief because he saw that people all around were rebellious against God. God was pleased with Jeremiah's heart, and He decided to reveal to him the plan He had for saving people. He showed him that the Son of God, who was to visit the earth, would become the Good Shepherd who will lead His people, like sheep, to His Father in heaven.





Soon after that, in a little town of Nazareth, the same angel came to a young girl who was related to Elisabeth. Her name was Mary. The angel was greatly moved by the mission he was entrusted with. He was to tell Mary that God chose her out of all the women in the world to be the mother of Jesus, the long promised Messiah. The time came for God to visit the earth again in the person of His Son and save people from the trap of sin that Satan had placed.

Mary obeyed God and agreed to His plans. She had many concerns, because she was not married yet, only just engaged to Joseph, a young carpenter from the same town. Despite her fears, she did not hesitate for a moment. In her heart she had always desired to please God.







**H**appy with the news, Mary decided to visit Elisabeth to tell her everything. She set out on a long journey to a different city, and because she was not rich, she had to travel on foot.

When, after a few days' travel, she reached Zacharias' house, the baby in Elisabeth's womb moved with joy hearing Mary's voice. This was a sign for Elisabeth that the day God's Son will come is near. She was thankful to God not only

for her child, but also for His choosing of Mary to fulfill His everlasting promise to save people. She was happy that the time when people will again have close relationship with God is coming. Mary following Elisabeth praised God for all the wonderful things He was doing. She said these words:

*My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*





**T**hey traveled for several days, because the donkey plodded along slowly and carefully so that Mary with the Baby in her womb could safely reach their destination. When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem, it was very late. They could not find a place to rest anywhere. Joseph went from inn to inn knocking on doors, but there were no rooms available for them. He was very concerned for Mary, who was exhausted after a long journey. Finally, someone suggested that they go outside the city and find a stable where animals lived. Seeing that Mary's time to give birth was near, Joseph decided to go there right away. He really wanted Mary to be able to lie down on some hay and rest after a long, tiring journey. They barely made it to a cavern where they found a place to rest for the night.



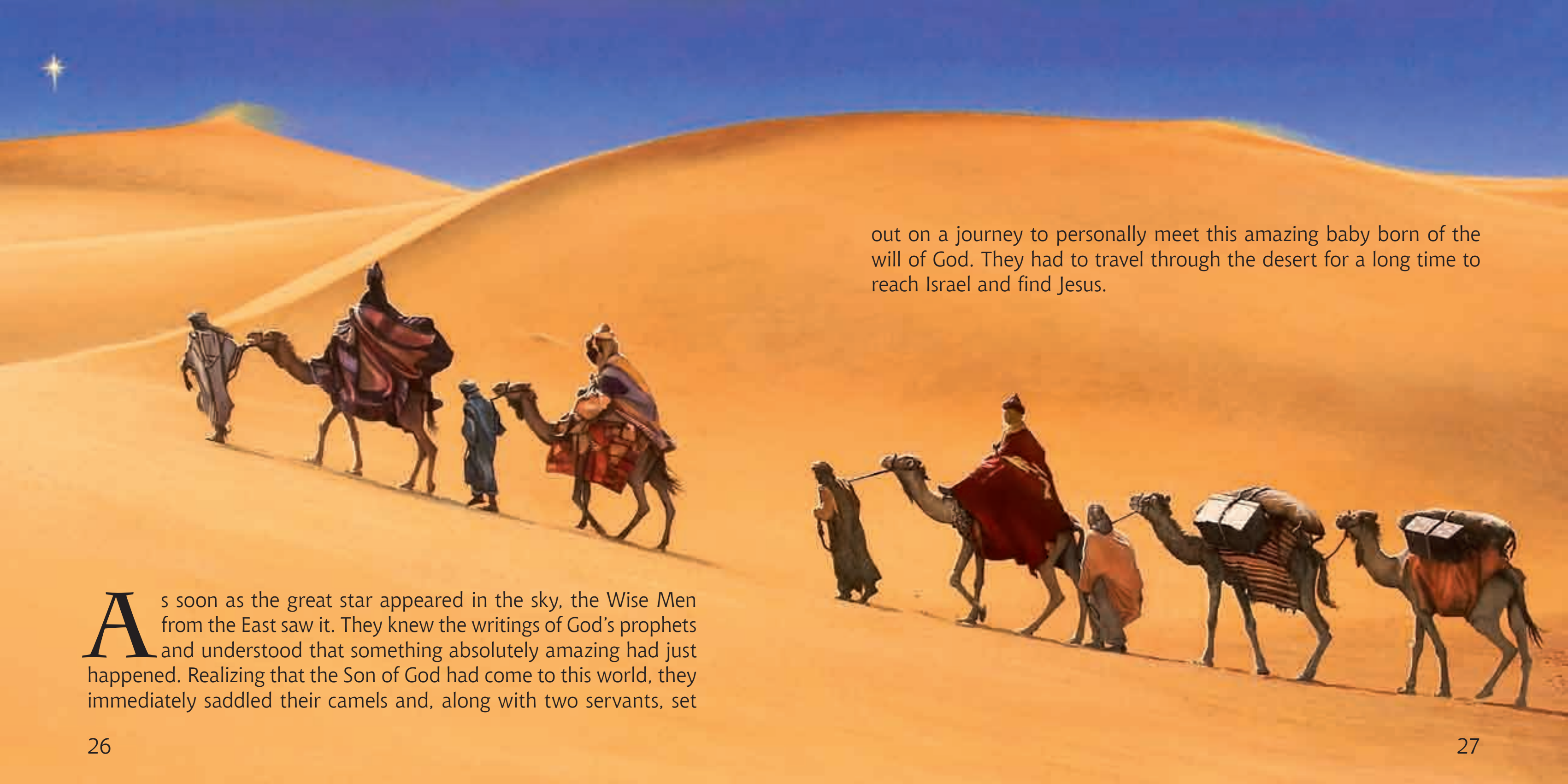


**T**he cavern they found was a place for animals, but the exhausted travelers did not mind. They could finally lie down and rest. This was the night Mary gave birth to a son. Though the baby boy was tiny and helpless, it was God Himself that came into the world in human flesh. In this way, the Almighty fulfilled His promise of coming again to earth to free people from their sins and give them back the joy of personal fellowship with Him. God took on Himself the human flesh because He so “loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

Mary and Joseph were very happy. They thanked God for the Baby and for His care. And though they had many hardships and troubles, they did not complain. Their hearts were filled with joy and the presence of God in their lives.







out on a journey to personally meet this amazing baby born of the will of God. They had to travel through the desert for a long time to reach Israel and find Jesus.

**A**s soon as the great star appeared in the sky, the Wise Men from the East saw it. They knew the writings of God's prophets and understood that something absolutely amazing had just happened. Realizing that the Son of God had come to this world, they immediately saddled their camels and, along with two servants, set



**J**esus' whole life on earth was sinless, and at the end He gave it up for the people He loved so much. With His blood He paid for all the sins of all the people. Jesus not only gave His life for us.

After three days, as prophets had said, He rose again and proved that the words He had said and the things He had done while on earth were true. Because of that, all the people, you and I and everyone you know were freed from the slavery of sin. This is why we can freely come to God and enjoy His fellowship in our lives. But why are there so many people in this world who do not experience this blessing?

To have a personal relationship with God, we must put all of our trust in Jesus. We must trust Him in two things: that what He has done for us fully resolves the problem of our salvation, and that the life He has prepared for us is truly more beautiful than the life this world offers. If we honestly trust God in our hearts with those two things, we can become new creatures born of God's Spirit, and we can be His own children, who daily experience the love, care and guidance of the Heavenly Father. He Himself promises to fill our lives with the fruit of the presence of His Spirit which is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And this is just the beginning of what awaits us in the future when we are forever with the Lord.

If you desire a life like that, if you would always like to experience God's love and joy that comes from doing His will, you can pray even now with these words:



“Lord Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice on the cross. Thank you for freeing me once and forever from the power of evil. I want to have the life You offer. From today on, I truly desire to do the will of the Father who is in heaven. Please come into my hearts as my Lord and Savior. Give me the power to follow you day after day and live life that will be pleasing to You. Amen.”