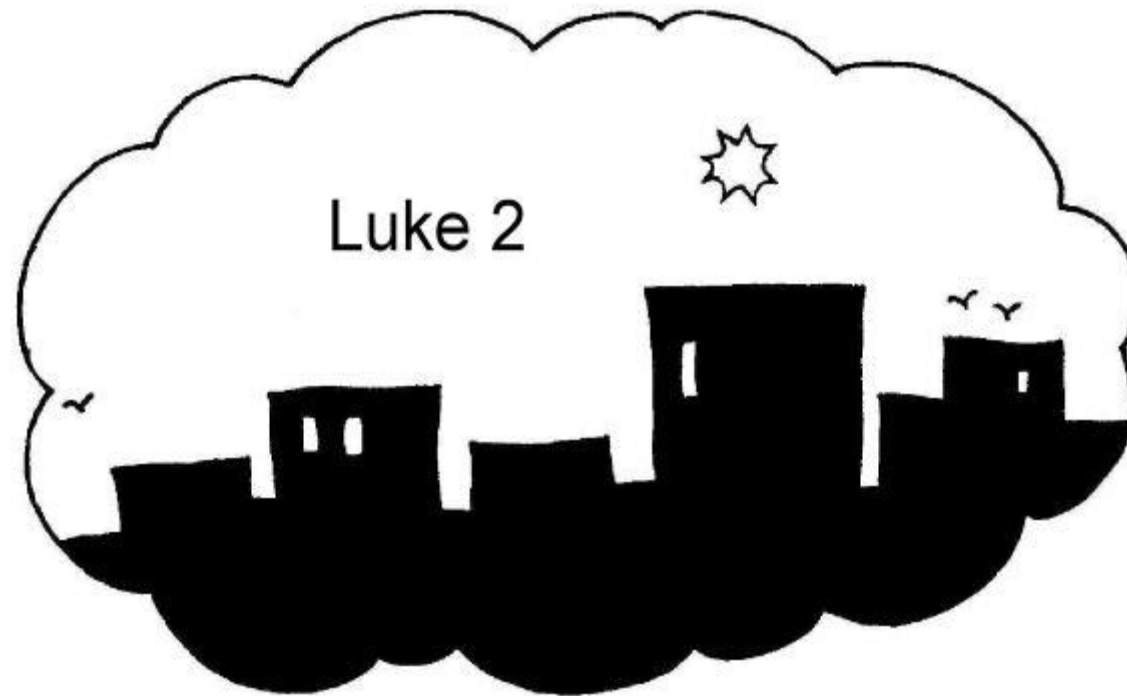


JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

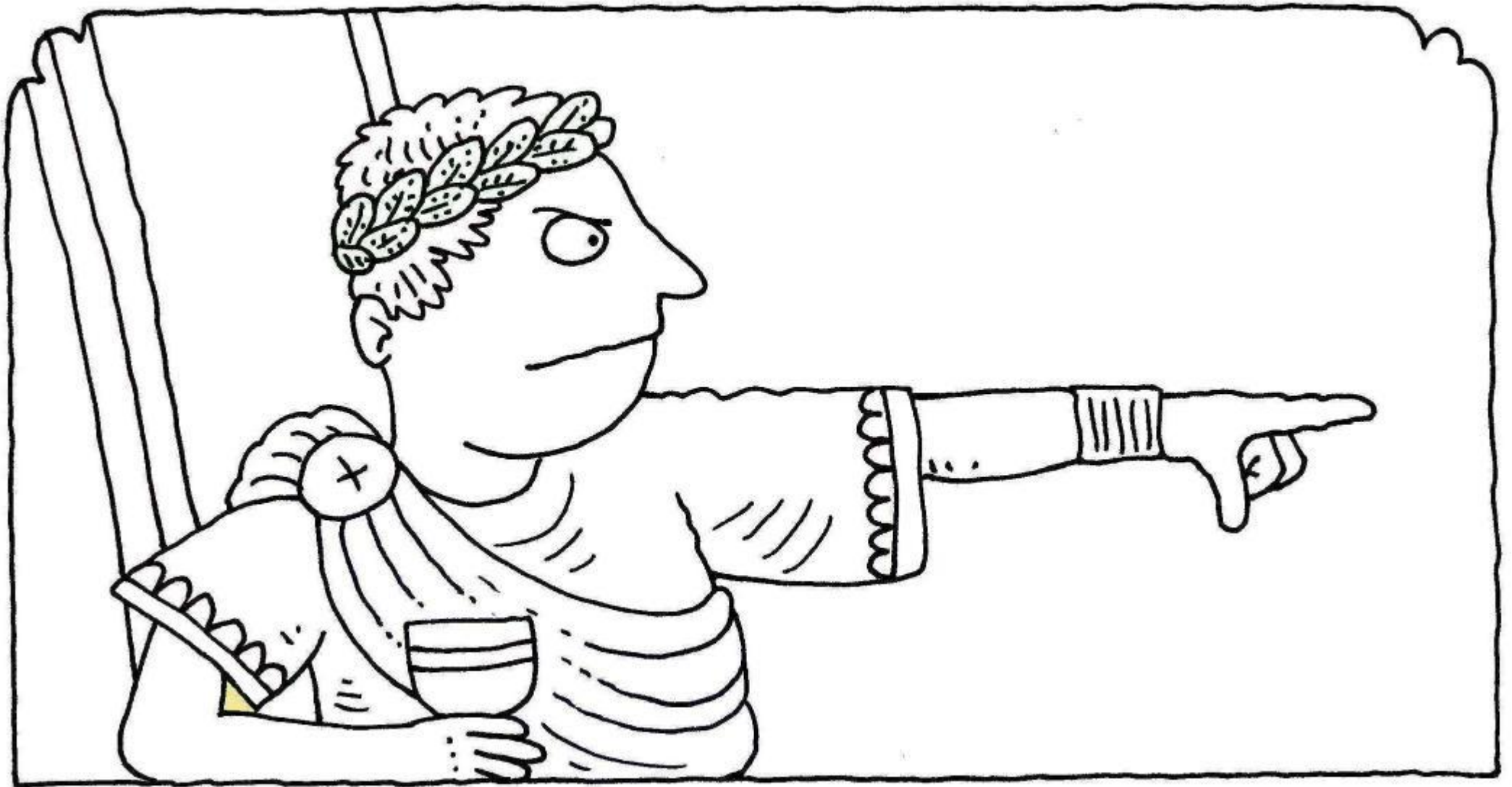
By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther

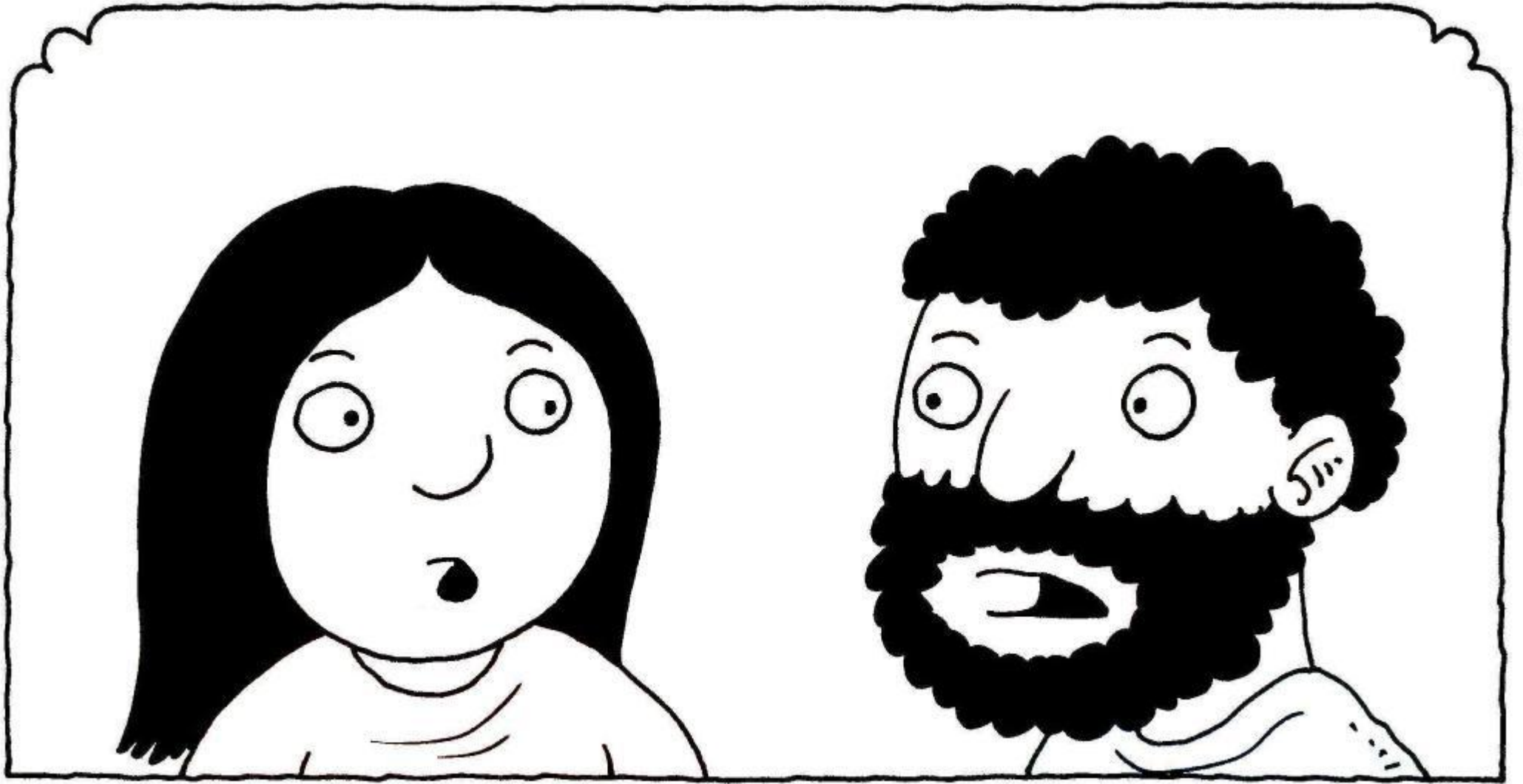




Joseph the Carpenter lived in the town of Nazareth. One night God sent the angel Gabriel to tell him that the baby Mary was expecting was the promised Son of God and he was to marry Mary and take care of her and the baby.



The emperor Augustus wanted more tax money. He made a new law that everyone was to go to the town their ancestors came from to put their names on a list, so Joseph the Carpenter had to go to Bethlehem.



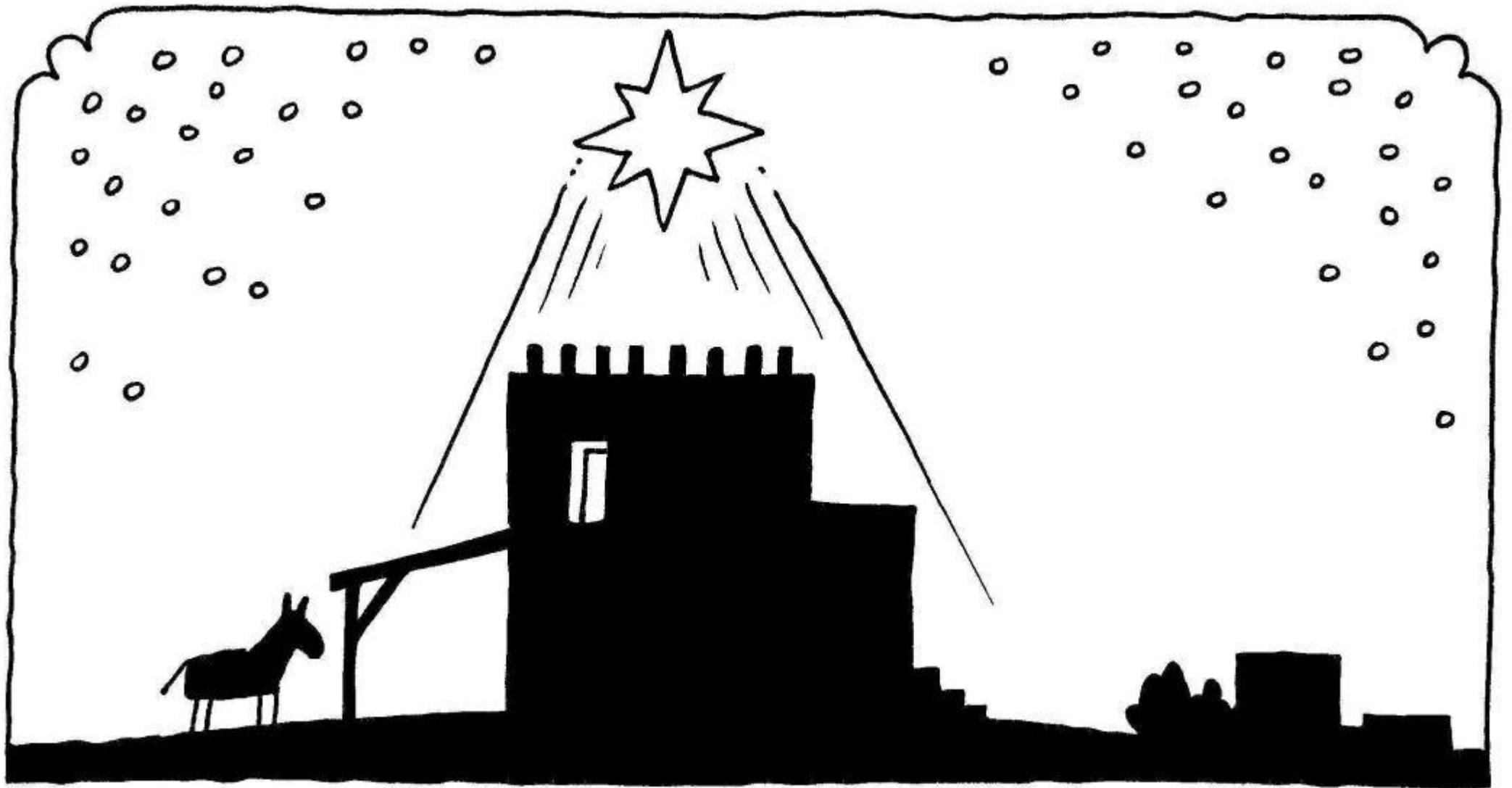
“My ancestor David came from Bethlehem,” Joseph told Mary, “so I must go there to put my name on the tax list. Even though your baby will be born soon you will have to come with me because God wants me to look after you.”



Bethlehem was about three days journey with Mary riding on the back of the donkey. It was a bumpy ride and Mary would have been very tired and very uncomfortable.



So many people had come to put their name on the list at Bethlehem that there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay, except a smelly stable that animals slept in.



That night baby Jesus, the promised Saviour,
was born in a stable in Bethlehem.
A very bright star appeared in the sky
right above the place where He was born.



Joseph and Mary called the baby Jesus, just like the angel Gabriel had told them. They wrapped him in a soft linen cloth and made him a bed in a manger box of hay.