

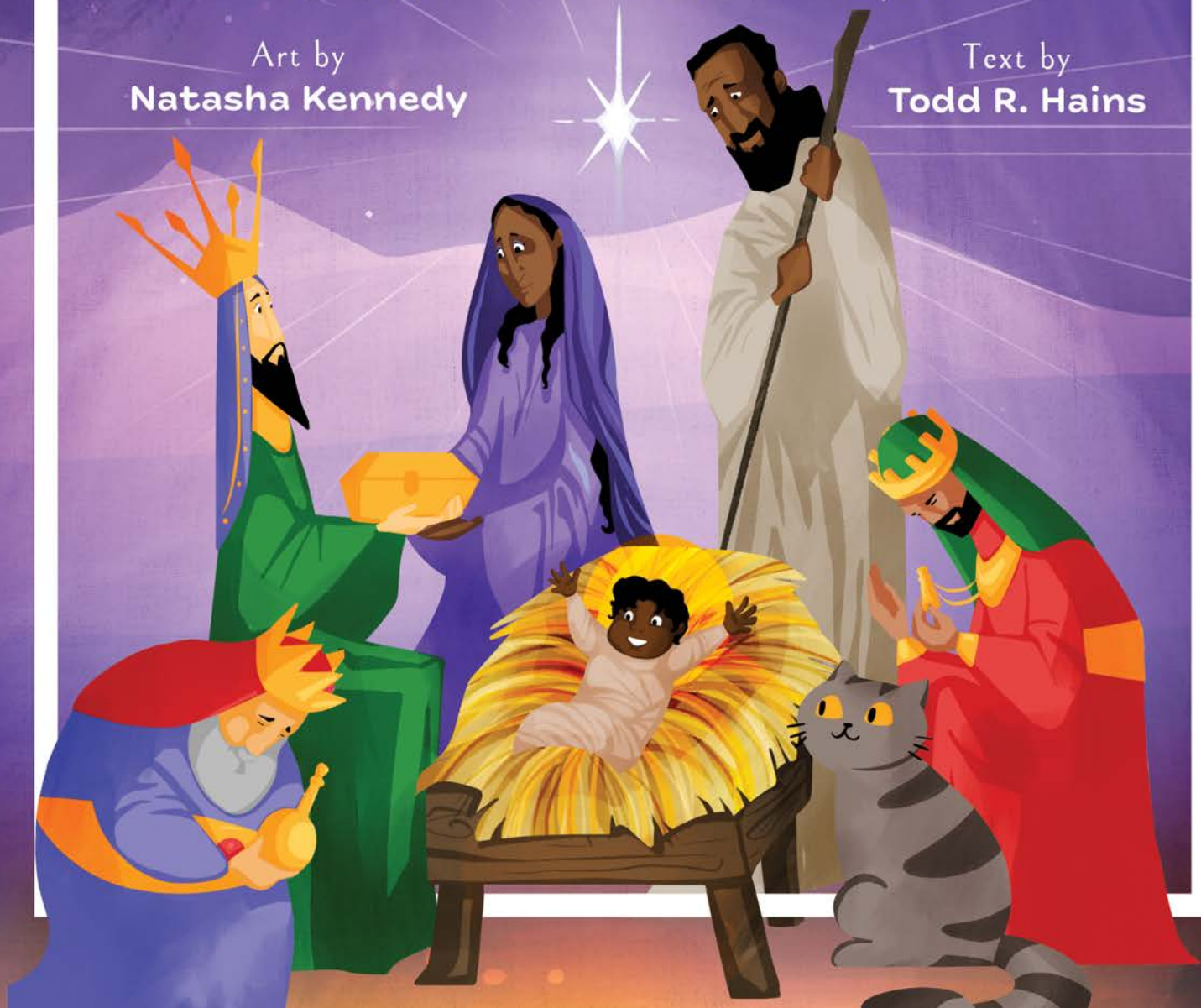


THE KING OF CHRISTMAS

All God's Children Search for Jesus

Art by
Natasha Kennedy

Text by
Todd R. Hains





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LEXHAM PRESS



HEAVENLY FATHER,

Thank you for giving us the light of your word.

It is the guiding star that leads us to your Son.

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts

so that we follow your word and

receive your Son. Through

Jesus Christ our

King.

AMEN.



What is FatCat?

FatCat is our way of making the catechism approachable. He represents the catechism: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

In this book, FatCat guides us through the truth we celebrate on the Holy Day of Christmas. The magi found our Lord and King Jesus by the light of a star. Today we find our Lord and King Jesus by the light of his word. Follow FatCat and the magi as they journey over sea and field to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and finally to Jesus.



FatCat is hidden throughout the pages of this book. Search for him with your child as you enjoy this book together, and hide the truth of Jesus in your heart.

The baby born in a manger is the God put to death on a cross and risen again from the dead. Wherever his name and word are, you will find him too.

Merry Christmas to all God's children!



"You, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name."

Jeremiah 14:9

The star of the King of Christmas!
Where will we find him?



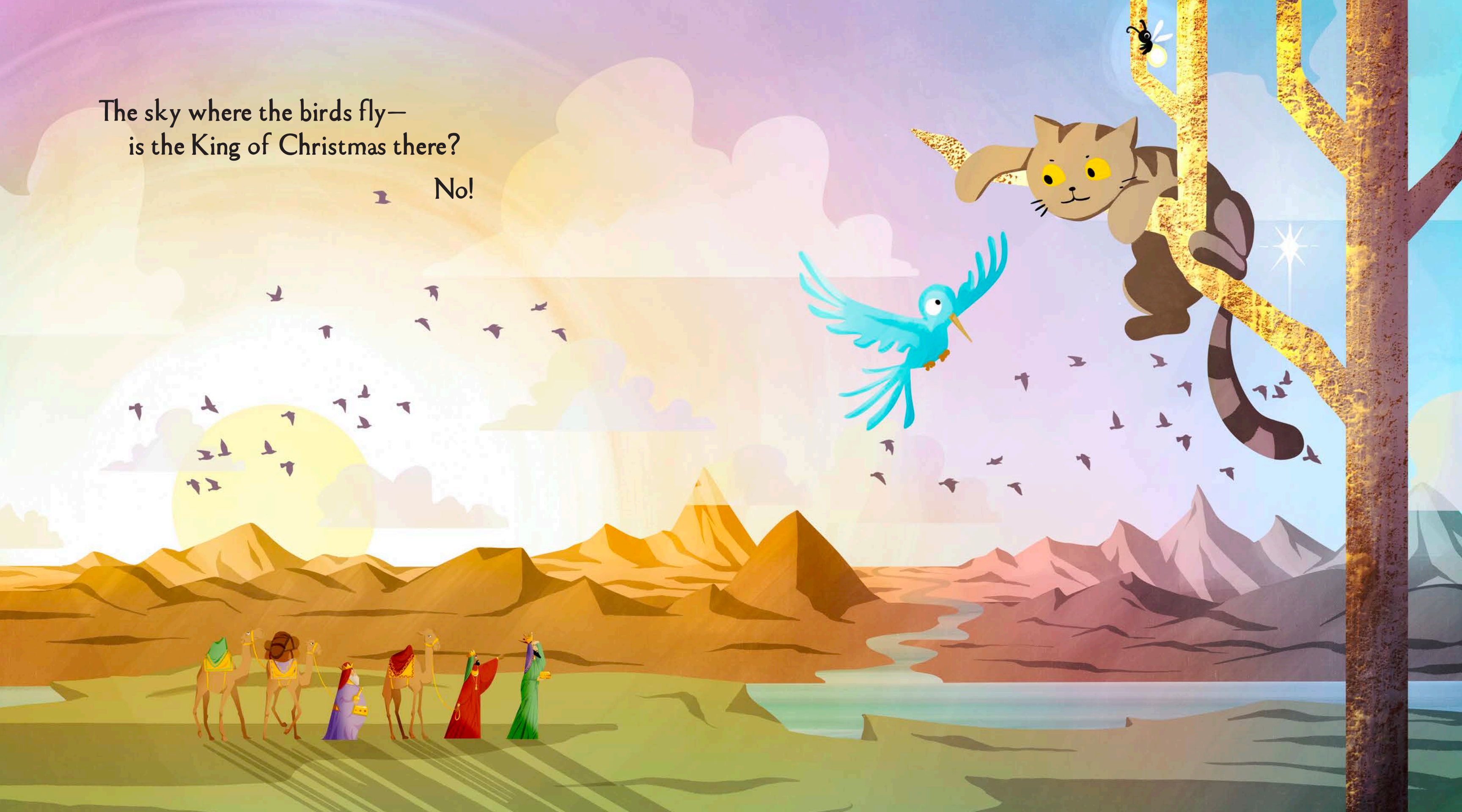
The heavens where the stars shine—
is the King of Christmas there?

No!



The sky where the birds fly—
is the King of Christmas there?

No!



To Parents

This book presents the story of the magi searching for baby Jesus, the King of Christmas (Matthew 2:1-12). The Bible connects Jesus' birth and death. Only the magi, Pontius Pilate, and Pilate's soldiers call Jesus "the King of the Jews." And so, when the magi ask Herod, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2), we can already picture the charge posted against him on the cross: "The King of the Jews." That's why this book continues the magi's search for Jesus to his death and resurrection.

Jesus is the one about whom the prophet Isaiah said: "A Child is born to us, a Son is given to us" (Isaiah 9:6 NLT). He is the word made flesh who gave himself on the cross to defeat death with his death, so you can have life, salvation, and the forgiveness of sins.

The Bible sets the center and boundary of this book's art. In addition to Matthew 2, the Psalms and Mary's Song (also called the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55) help provide the places where the magi and FatCat search for the King of Christmas.

They start their search in nature. "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). So they search sky and heaven, land and water. But they don't find him. "His majesty is above earth and heaven" (Psalm 148:13).

They search human cities and dwellings. "You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:5). So they search for him among the rich and noble, among soldiers and merchants, even among the religious leaders. They still don't find him. "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones. ... The rich he has sent away empty" (Luke 1:52-53).

Finally, they arrive in Bethlehem, a small, unknown place. And they search in unexpected places.

A feed box for cattle? And they find him!

A device for executing criminals? Yes, here he is again!

But the grave where they placed his body? No! "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (Luke 24:5-6).

So where is he now? In the word, where he promises to be: in the reading and proclamation of God's word, in baptism, in the Lord's Supper, and in the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus promises: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

