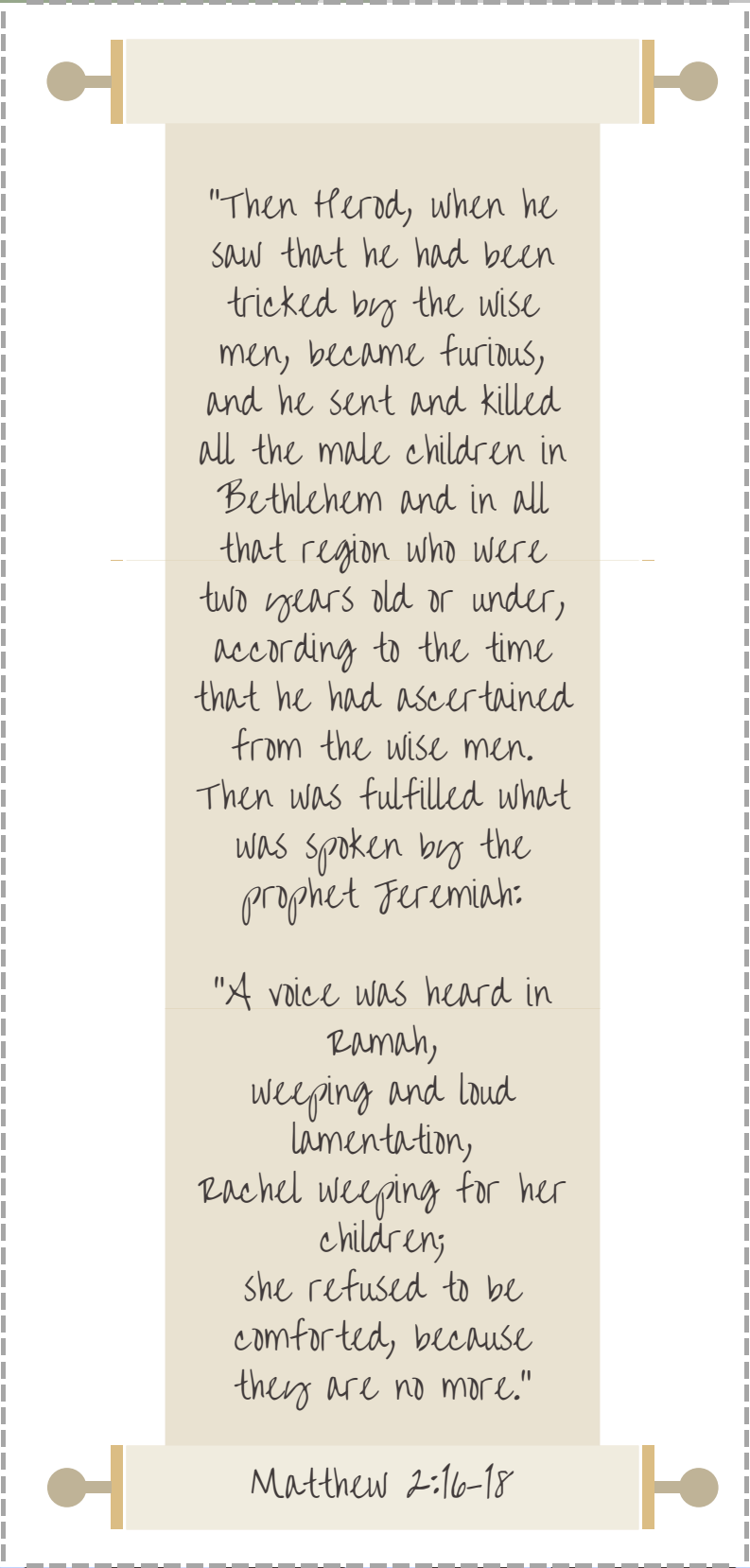




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"Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more."

Matthew 2:16-18



Do you remember when we talked about how there was going to be great sadness around the time of Jesus' birth?

When people love power and wealth so much, sometimes they'll be tempted to do things that are very wrong. That's what happened with Herod. He was afraid that the prophecy of Jesus would threaten his power and wealth. And he did something terrible to all the little boys in Bethlehem.

But do you also remember how we talked about the Comforter? And praying for the Lord to bring us comfort when we are sad and grieving? And how we have hope for the future?

While the story of Jesus' birth does have sadness in it, we know that the sadness we sometimes feel today is going to be very small and brief compared to the immense joy we will feel when He returns and wipes away every tear!

On the next page, can you find the dove that represents peace in the treetops filled with birds?



