10 §T. MATTHEW. II.   
   
 sHoex11. the prophet, saying, € Out of Egypt have I called my son.   
 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the   
 wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew   
 all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the   
 i coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to   
 the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.   
 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the   
 hJus.xx21.18. saying, 18"In Rama was there a voice heard,   
 K [lamentation and] weeping, and great mourning, Rachel   
   
   
   
 \ render, borders : see ch. iv. where the word the original the same. \* omit.   
   
 18,] The command was immediate; and at once.— Besides, there have been   
 Joseph made no delay. He must be un- a reason for not making enquiry, but   
 derstood, account of “by night” below, rather taking the course he did, which   
 as having arisen the same night and de- was sure, as he thought, to answer the   
 parted forthwith. Egypt, as near, as a end, without divulging the purpose. The   
 Roman province and independent this view. in ver. 7 The favour   
 and much inhabited by Jews, was an easy gelist is speaking of view of the   
 and convenient refuge. 16. Out of matter. is the borders thereof] The   
 Egypt] This citation shews the almost the Greek Aoria in the A. V. It does not   
 universal application the N. T. of the imply any bordering on a sea shore, but   
 prophetic writings to the expected Mes- is an old use for or neighbourhood,   
 siah, as the general antitype of all the as ote in French. See margin of A. V.   
 events of the typical dispensation. We the borders thereof betoken the   
 shall have occasion to remark the same insulated houses, and hamlets, which be-   
 again and again in the course the Gos- longed to the territory Bethlehem.   
 pels. It seems to have been a received from two years old] This expression   
 axiom of interpretation has, by its not be taken as any very indication   
 adoption in the N. T., received eanc- of the time when the star did actually   
 tion of the Holy Spirit and now appear, The addition and under implies   
 stands for our guidance), the subject that there was uncertainty in Herod’s   
 of all allusions, represented in all mind as to the Nesp out; and if so,   
 parables and dark was He who was why might not the tyrant, al-   
 to come, or the circumstances attendant though he had accurately ascertained   
 on His advent and reign.—The words date of the star’s have taken a   
 are written in Hosea of the children of range of time extending before as well   
 Israel, are rendered from the Hebrew. as after it, the more surely to attain   
 —A similar expression with regard to his point ? 17. that which was   
 Israel is in Exod. iv. 28. that spoken by Jeremy] Apparently, an accom-   
 it might be fulfilled must not be ex- modation of the prophecy in Jer. 15,   
 plained away: it never denotes the event which was originally written the Baby-   
 or mere result, but always the purpose. lonish captivity. ‘e must not draw any   
 16.) Josephus makes no mention fanciful distinction between “then was   
 of this slaughter; is it likely he fulfilled” and “that might be fulfilled,”   
 would have done. Probably no great but rather seek our explanation in the   
 number of children perished in so a acknowledged system of prophetic inter-   
 place as Bethlehem and its neighhourhood. pretation among the Jews, still in   
 ‘he modern objections to this narrative their rabbinical books, now sanctioned   
 may be answered best by remembering to us by N. T. useage; at same time   
 the monstrous character of this tyrant, remembering, for our caution, how little   
 of whom Josephus asserts, “a dark choler even now we understand of the full   
 seized on him, maddening him against ing of prophetic typical words and   
 all.’ Herod had marked the way to his acts. None of expressions of pro-   
 throne, and his reign itself, blood; phecy must be closely literally   
 had murdered his wife and three sons The link connexion seems to be   
 (the last about this time); and was sepulchre, which (Gen. xxxv. 19: see also   
 likely in blind fury, have made   
 no enquiries, but given the savage order