

# THE ARGVMENT OF THE BOOKE OF NVMERI.

*Epist. ad Paulum.* In this booke called *Numeri*, are contained (faith S. Hierom) the Myfteries of al Arithmetike, or numbering, of the Prophecie of Balaam, and of the fourtie two Mansions of the Ifraelites, in the desert. VVhich myftical sense the same great Doctor, as also S. Auguftin and other Fathers do gather of the literal, written by Moyfes. VVho here profecuteth the sacred historie after Genesis and Exodus (Leuiticus also containing one moneth) from the second moneth of the second yeare, after the deliuerie of the Ifraelites out of Ægypt, nere 39. yeares, to the last of Moyfes life. Firft therefore he reporteth how al the men of twelue tribes, of the age of twentie yeares and vppward, were numbered. Likewife the tribe of Leui was numbered and imployed partly in priestly function, the rest to afsist the priests. He describeth also the order of marching and encamping, the Leuites alwayes next and round about the Tabernacle: the other twelue tribes in circuite of them on al sides. He moreouer recordeth certaine notable murmurings, tumults, schismes, and rebellions with the euent therof, and miserable endes of chief seducers. VVhose great iniuries Moyfes mekely sustained with singular patience, ftill executing his owne function with heroical fortitude. Among which, diuers precepts and lawes are partly repeated, partly added, as wel concerning Religion and Gods seruice, as godlie policie and ciuil gouernment of the people, with chastifment of offenders. How also their enemies endeouored to annoy them, Balac king of Moab procuring Balaam the forcerer, so much as in him lay, to curse them, but al in vaine. Yet by carnal fornication manie were drawn to spirital. Both which being punished God againe prospered his people, in diuers encounters and battailes against Infidels. Finally the promised Land of Chanaan on both sides Iordaine is described by limites, which they shal parte amongst them by lot, the Leuites mingled in

Myfteries  
cōteined in  
these histories.

The contents  
according to the  
letter.

VVicked life  
draweth to Idol-  
atrie.

## THE ARGUMENT OF THE BOOKE OF NUMERI.

euerie tribe, with their appointed cities and commoditie for habitation, and the tithes, first frutes, oblations and abundant prouision for their maintenance. Cities also of refuge are designed for casual manflayers; and a law established that al shal marie within their owne tribes, to auoide confusion of inheritances. So this booke may be diuided into three partes. In the first the principal and most perfect sort of the people are numbered, and disposed in order according to diuers states and offices, before they depart from the desert of Sinai. In the nine first chapters. Then are related fundrie things, which happened vnto them in the rest of their iourney, especially manie and great impediments. Through al which God punishing some, brought the residue to enioy the promised land. From the 10. chap. to the end of the 33. Lastly the countrie of Chanaan is againe promised, with order so to possesse and enioy it, that euerie tribe may haue and keepe their feveral partes. In the three last chapters.

Three partes of  
this booke.