

THE ARGVMENT OF THE BOOKES OF ESDRAS.

1. *Efdr. 7.* Esdras a holie Priest and Scribe, of the stocke of Aaron, by the line of Eleazar, vvriteth the hiftorie of Gods people, in, and prefently after their captiuitie in Babilon: vvwhich *Nehemias* an other godlie Priest profecuteth, vvwhose booke is alfo called the fecond of Efdras, becaufe in the Hebrevv and Greke they are but one booke, relating the acts of them both. The other two books called *the third and fourth* of Efdras, touching the fame matter, are not in the Hebrew, nor *receiued into the Canon of holie Scripture*, though the Greke Church hold the third booke as Canonically, and placeth it firft, becaufe it conteineth things donne before the other.
- The two bookes of Efdras and Nehemias are but one in the Hebrew.
- The third and fourth are not canonical.
- In the two here following, vvwhich are vndoubtedly holie Scripture S. Ierom fayth, that *Efdras and Nehemias (to witte the Helper, and Comforter from God) refrored the Temple, and built the walles of the citie;* adding that *al the troope of the people returning into their countrie, alfo the defcription of Prieftes, Leuites, Ifraelites, Profelites, and the workes of walles and towres diuided by feveral families, aliud in cortice præferunt, aliud in medulla retinent, fhew one thing in the barke, kepe an other thing in the marrow:* fignifying that this hiftorie hath both a literal, and a myftical fenfe. According to the letter, this firft booke shevveth the reduction of Gods people from Babylon, in the firft fix chapters. In the other foure, their inftruction by Efdras after their returne.
- This hiftorie hath alfo a fpiritual fenfe.
- Firft booke diuided into two partes.