

THE ARGUMENT OF THE BOOKES OF KINGES AND PARALIPPOMENON IN GENERAL.

After the booke of Iudges (wherunto Ruth is annexed) rightly folow the bookes of Kinges: fignifying that after the general *Iudgement* cometh the *eueralfting Kingdome*. As venerable Beda expoundeth this connexion of bookes, wherin he alfo explicateth manie other Myfteries of Chrifft & the Church præfigured in thefe hiftories. Likewife S. Gregorie teacheth that befides the *hiftrical & moral fenfe expreffed in the fimplicite of the letter, an other myftical vnderftanding is to be fought in the height of the Allegorie*. In confirmation wherof he citeth S. Auguftin and S. Hierom; who fay, that Elcana his two wiues fignified the Synagogue of the Iewes, and the Church of Chrifft: & that the death of Heli & Saul, with tranflation of Priefthood to Samuel and Sadoch, and of the Kingdome, to Daudid and his Succeffors, præfigured the *new Priefthood, and new Kingdome of Chrifft* the old ceafing which were shadowes therof. So thefe two great Doctors S. Gregorie and S. Beda, infifting in the fteppes of other lerned holie Fathers, that had gone before them, expound thefe hiftories not only hiftorically but alfo myftically. The hiftorie firft fetteth forth the changing of the forme of gouernment from Iudges to Kinges: and then at large what Kinges did reigne ouer the Hebrew people, as wel in one intire Realme, as ouer the fame people diuided into two kingdomes; their more principal Actes; their good and euil behaiour; alfo the profperitie, declinations, and final captiuities of both the Kingdomes. Al which is contained in *four bookes of Kinges*, with other two partly repeting that was faied before, but efpecially fupplying thinges omitted in the whole facred hiftorie from the beginning of the world, called *Paralippomenon*. The two firft are alfo called the *Bookes of Samuel*, though he writ

qq. in
1. Reg. c. 1.

Prologo.
in 1. Reg.

li. 17.
c. 4. ciuit.
Ep. ad Paulin.

Thefe hiftories are alfo expounded myftically by the ancient Fathers.

The general contents of al the bookes of Kinges & Paralippomenon.

Samuel writ the firft part, but vncertaine who writ the reft.

not one of them wholly, for he died before the historie of the former ended; but they goe both vnder his name, because he annointed the two firft Kinges, and writ a great part of their Actes. Wherto the rest was added either by Dauid and Salomon, as some thinke, or by Nathan and Gad, as is probably gathered, *1. Paralip. 29. v. 29.* The authors also of the third and fourth bookes of Kinges, and of the two of Paralippomenon are vncertaine; yet all haue euer bene receiued and held for Canonical Scripture.