oH. i. 9, 10) EXPOUNDED 37  
  
was so too. The poverty was, as we may gather, the  
result of persecution ; for it is spoken of between the  
“ tribulation ” and the “ blasphemy ”’ as the persecutors.  
  
9. ‘‘And the blasphemy from those who say that they are  
Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”  
  
The Jews were the great enemies of the Church in  
Smyrna, and the agents of Satan against the angel.  
It was, no doubt, felt to be peculiarly trying to the  
believers of that day, that the Jews, to whose sacred  
writings they appealed, made common cause with the  
heathen against them. It was calculated to suggest the  
doubt whether they could be right.  
The sin thus noticed as beginning under “the things  
that are,’ and confined to the Jews, in the prophetic  
part, embraces the whole world, and attains its most  
fearful height. The seeds of each future development  
of iniquity cluster round the churches, or are found  
within them.  
The blasphemers said they were Jews, but were not.  
They were Jews outwardly, but not within. And in  
this dispensation only the inward Jew is recognized of God.  
Rom. ii. 28.  
They are Jews literally taken, but had they been in  
  
God’s sense, true Jews, they would have joined the Church  
of Christ.  
  
10. ‘‘ Fear not ! the things which thou art about to suffer ; ?  
behold the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye  
may be tempted ; and ye willhavea tribulation of ten days. Be-  
come ® faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”  
  
The Saviour is fortifying the president of the Church  
in Smyrna against troubles to come. They are before-  
hand known to Christ. He is our watchman, from His  
  
tower above foreseeing, and forewarning of trials in the  
distance.  
  
1Por udev read uy. 2 MAXw, 3 Tivou,