CH. iil. 9] EXPOUNDED 75  
  
“Tf ye love me, keep my commandments.” This  
they did: and the love they felt led to service.  
“ And deniedst not My name.”  
’Tis not unlikely that the angel was especially  
called on to own the name of Christ as connected with  
“ David ’—his coming kingly authority over the earth.  
This was the point at which the rulers of the earth  
felt most sensitively the religion of Jesus. This was  
the point which the Saviour had to testify, in His “ good  
confession ’’ before Pontius Pilate.  
This hints to us, further, the character of the temp-  
tation which is about to overtake the world: it will be  
an attempt to set up another king, as Jesus’ superior.  
Persecution the most fierce will lend its aid to seduction  
the most bewitching. That saying, ‘“‘ Thou deniedst  
not my name,” gives force and vivid meaning to the  
word which four times occurs in the prophetic part,  
concerning Antichrist, ““ That none might buy or sell  
save he that had the mark, or the NAME of the Wild  
Beast, or the number of his NAME ”’ (xii. 17; xiv. 11).  
9. “‘ Behold I make (those) of the synagogue of Satan who  
say they are Jews, and are not, but lie; behold I will make  
them to come near and worship before thy feet; and know  
that 3 loved Thee.’’  
These deniers of Messiah, the Son of David, the  
hope of the fathers, had lost the spirit of the Jew  
altogether. God had rent away from them the temple,  
and cast them out of their land, for their sin. There  
remained, therefore, only their synagogue worship,  
devoid of priest or sacrifice. This Jehovah would not  
own. They were on Satan’s side: those who are not  
friends of Christ are against Him.  
The door is shut against” Israel throughout this  
dispensation. “‘Not my people,” is the true word  
concerning them. Vainly do they boast of the door as  
open still. “‘ They lie.”