

your share in the blessings of the covenant. "Thou hast avouched the Lord this day to be thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, to hearken to His voice ; and the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be His peculiar people, as He hath promised thee. (Deut. xxvi. 17, 18.) Observe it: The same day that they avouched the Lord to be their God, the same day the Lord avouched them to be His peculiar people. The same day that they engaged to keep the commandments of God, the same day the Lord engaged to keep His promise with them.

There is a two-fold covenanting with God. In *profession*, or in *reality*; an entering our names, or an engaging our hearts. The former is done in baptism, by all that are baptized, who, by receiving that seal of the covenant, are visibly, or in profession, entered into it. The latter is also two-fold.

1. VIRTUAL. Which is done by all those that have sincerely made that closure with God in Christ which we have spoken of. Those that have chosen the Lord, embarked with Christ, resigned, and given themselves to the Lord, have virtually covenanted with Him.

2. FORMAL. Which is our binding ourselves to the Lord by solemn vow or promise to stand to our choice. And this may be either inward in the soul, or outward, and expressed either by word, lifting up the hands, subscribing with the hand, or the like ; and by how much the more express and solemn our covenanting with God is, by so much the more sensibly and strongly is it likely to hold our hearts to Him.