

T 6

in ability to do things and to accomplish the things that you want to do, and doubtless it was God's will to give this knowledge, to give this skill, to give this ability in time, but He was not ready yet to give it to us, and therefore He placed Adam there with his first-- with all the garden to enjoy, everything there open to him, but his first responsibility, the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of construction and destruction, of ability to go forward and do things effectively was a thing which would come later on, and many people say that today in the machine age, that our knowledge of material things has outranked our knowledge of spiritual things. They say that we have got the wonderful machinery and the wonderful command over the physical creation without having acquired the moral standards to control it and therefore it is apt to destroy the universe. Well, that is in a way that which was here in the garden of Eden, probably. This was a tree, then, which man--there was nothing bad in the tree, but it was something for which man was not yet ready. God wished him to have the moral strength first. He wished first for man to give the proof that he would truly love God and be true to God, and so He gave this very simple test. Here is the tree, and you are not to eat of it. You may eat of every tree of the garden, anything you want except this one tree, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. That was the command, of course, given back in v. 17.

Now we have the chapter beginning to the serpent, and so we will go on to B. A. was the nature of the test; B is the serpent. The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field. I remember a man whom I was working with once building trails for the government and this man told me that he had made quite a study of the Bible once and he had found what it was--that it was only a very imperfect history of Egypt. Now, whatever the Bible is, you can be sure that it is not a history of Egypt, because Egypt enters into it very little. I would gather that the man had opened the Bible two or three times and seen the name Egypt and had gathered that the Bible is an imperfect