

T 5

this week in reading a book which was discussing a similar matter and referring back to this the question was asked, "How long did the serpent talk to Eve before she ate?" The Scripture tells us/what the serpent said and how Eve took and ate of the apple. Did that happen immediately, or did the serpent talk for a period of days or perhaps of weeks with the temptation before she succumbed to the temptation? Was it a thing which happened immediately or was it over a period of time? And supposing that Eve had said, "No, I am not going to disobey, I am not going to eat," would the serpent have come back that afternoon and tried further. Would he have come back the next day? Would it have been kept up for quite a while? We're not told in the Scripture. It is just typical of the many, many things which we are not told in the Scripture and we can't say "yes" or "no". We just don't know, but this we do know, that we are told in the Scripture that Adam and Eve were placed in the garden and were given every thing good that they might desire and were given the right to use all the fine fruits in the garden except one, and there is one tree of which they are told that they are not to eat. It is a simple test; it is a test simply of obedience. They do not know the reason for it. They don't understand the details of it. They are not explained to us in the Scripture here. All we know is that there is a definite command given and the test is being made. Will Adam and Eve love God enough that they will be ready to obey Him on one simple matter which they do not fully understand? Will they stand this simple test or not? And so all the fate of humanity is made to hang upon a simple and clear test. Will they obey or not? It doesn't matter really, I think, what the test is. God might have said, "You may sleep in the garden of Eden anywhere you want except over in the northeast corner but over there you must not sleep!" He could have said, "You can build a house anywhere you want except in the southern section of it but there you must not build a house." He could have made any stipulation He wanted. It isn't that there is something inherently wrong in what they did. It is/ some-
not
thing that human wisdom could figure out. It is simply a matter of a specific