

you get the relative order and it is very useful for study. And so all dates previous to 3000 B. C. are guesses which are very valuable for getting the order of different things but which are very undependable as to exact dates. Yes---? There is a tremendous amount of material before 3000 B. C. That is, we have cities of which we have--we have maybe twenty cities one above the other getting back to the beginning of writing and then we have ten or twelve under that, but the ones under that, you can't tell how long they lasted. You can make a guess as to whether it looks like a city that was used for 500 years or whether it looks like one that was used for twenty years, before it was destroyed, but your guesses are very inaccurate and independent. The period of prehistory in Mesopotamia was one from which much has been found. There is more known of prehistory in Mesopotamia than of any any other section of the world. There is--of course, next to it is Egypt, but in Egypt there is much more that is discontinuous, at different places, while here there are more places where you have one city above another and therefore you can be sure of the order of them. There is a great deal of very interesting material and much definite that can be said but as to the length of it, we just don't know how long these different things took place. We can say this, that the civilization just before 3000 B. C. seems to be from an artistic viewpoint much higher than the civilization right after 3000 B. C. and the reason for it is that at about 3000 B. C. they discovered the smelting of copper and everything went at a greatly increased tempo. It was one of the two or three greatest advances in the history of civilization. It made up tremendous increase in the tempo-- before that everything was leisurely, people had time to make beautiful things; after that the strenuous life came and everybody rushed about violently and the citizens didn't get on to the use of copper weapons quite as fast as the next city were destroyed and burned back in that , and so in about 3000 B. C. 23 have two-thirds of the cities in Mesopotamia burned, and we have a tremendous amount of war and ravage as a result of the discovery of this new weapon, smelted copper weapons which could be made more quickly and in far greater