

And if you take your carbon 14 and if it's cut in half, it's 5500 years ago.

It's closer to 5500.

Well, you see 5500 would cut it in half. Another 5500 cuts it in another half - or a quarter. Another 5500 to an eighth, another 5500 to a sixteenth - so you don't get back to 30,000 years before you have it so small you can hardly recognize it. So that your carbon 14 is of great value in comparatively recent archaeological events. But when it comes to anything like the age of man it just is no help whatever - it's too far back. And on the other hand, I'm afraid the uranium's the other way around. The uranium might be of some help for the age of the earth but its life is too long to be of any help for the age of man. So I doubt if either one of these throws any light on that particular question.

(Question from the audience)

3,000 to 90,000 for what? No, I said that writing was invented at about 3000 B.C. - that's 5000 years ago. That's definite. There's no question about that - we have the absolute evidence of how it was invented. We have stages - that's about 5000 years ago - the invention of writing. But before writing you have no records - you can't set dates except by guess. And I know of nothing else except geological strata before that, on which to make it.

(Question from the audience)

Well if you have a geological stratum which, as far as you can tell in the world where you find it, must ~~XXXX~~ have taken at least 60,000 or 70,000 years to come into existence, and if you have five of those and underneath them you have a fossil man, you'd guess that man must be 300,000 years old.

(Question from the audience)

300,000 to 500,000, yes. One of the fossil remains which was found was under a series of strata^{of}/such age.