

Once you get back of 3000 you have no writings; all you can do is guess. But we have judging from the amount of space taken up by the levels(?) since that time you would say it was at least that many centuries before. God did not choose to give us those dates. I'm much interested to know whether Jesus was born in 6 B.C. or 5 or 4 B.C. Scholars differ. But it does not make any difference. God didn't choose to tell us.

Some say we should not observe Christmas on Dec. 25 because they say that was an old pagan holiday and Christians simply took it over. I think it is a very fine thing for us to set apart one time of the year to particularly remember the nativity of our Lord. We don't know when it was; and it seems to me it's just as good to have it that day as any other. But we don't know the date; God did not reveal it to us. And I don't believe God revealed the chronology of those dates. If somebody wants to say the world was created 6000 yrs. ago, let him bring forward his evidence. I'm not greatly interested. If someone wants to say it was 6 million yrs. ago I have not seen anything to contradict it in the Bible. Any date back of 1000 B.C. up to the present have a very high element of guess-word, I would say.

Question: A RC friend of ~~mine~~ asked me about our Lord's having brothers. The RC's teach the word cousin means in that sense a brother. . .

That lies in Dr. Newman's area and that should be left till tomorrow. As far as I'm concerned I have not gone into it. It is my impression. But I believe there were those in early Christian history who felt that it was more honoring to the Lord and to his mother if He was the only child; therefore they were anxious to render this as cousin rather than brother but I'm inclined to think ? . ? ? to Mary, but I would not be dogmatic. I think the RC's were probably wrong there but it seems to me very very minor point.

Question: You made a statement about the significance of the Qumran scrolls and their relation to this matter of inerrancy. What about their significance?

That's a wonderful illustration of something that has been discovered which obviously is of great value for Christian knowledge. Then the devil immediately finds ways to use it against the Bible. That's what happened regarding the Qumran scrolls. They are the scrolls of a Jewish sect that lived near the Dead Sea. They were expecting the coming of Messiah soon. They lived under strict communal rule so there is some disagreement as to how much was voluntary and how much was required. But they devoted a great deal of time and effort to copying the Bible. Until they were discovered the earliest copies we had of any size of any section of the OT was from c. 900 A.D. That's a long long time. We have parts of the NT from the 4th cent. A.D. But the 10th C. A.D. it would be easy for someone to say, In all those yrs. look at all the changes that probably came in. We have one complete copy of Isaiah and one copy that breaks at many parts but has parts of just about every main part of Isaiah. Then we have the whole of Habakkuk in a commentary. Then we have sections of