

Harvest would begin to arrive before the crops were ready. We may be sure than when it seemed likely that this would happen the priests would announce the insertion of an extra month, either in the spring or in the fall. Soon these intercalations were being made at least once every three years. In Babylonia and Greece similar determinations were made by the rulers. Thus the length of the year would oscillate between 354 and 384 days. Eventually a definite system of introducing extra months at regular intervals was worked out and such a system is still observed in the ecclesiastical practice of the Jews. Years vary in length but over the course of a few years their average length agrees exactly with that of the solar year.

Supporters of Anderson's theory assert that the Babylonians and other ancient peoples worked on the basis of a year similar to their assumed "prophetic year," but there is abundant evidence that this was not the case. It is true that the ancient Egyptian year consisted of 12 months of 30 days each, but five extra days were always added at the end of the year to bring it into line with the solar year.

Hoehner makes the statement: "When one investigates the calendars of ancient India, Persia, Babylonia and Assyria, Egypt, Central and South America, and China it is interesting to notice that they uniformly had twelve thirty-day months (a few had eighteen twenty-day months) making a total of 360 days for the year and they had various methods of intercalating days so that the year would come out correctly."⁵

The first part of this sentence is highly questionable: "that they uniformly had twelve thirty-day months." In most cases, aside from Egypt, there is little evidence for such a practice.

But the important part of the sentence is its last 16 words: "and they had various methods of intercalating days so that the year would come out