

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.
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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 correctly." I have been unable to find solid evidence that any nation ever counted years in such a way that each of them was considered to be 360 days in length. In practically every case, as he says, "they had various methods of intercalating days so that the years would come out correctly." The word "year" does not mean an artificial number of days or months but a complete round of the seasons. Even though the length of this round may differ from year to year, one finds over a period of years that its average length is identical with that of the solar year. Except for the Mohammedan year every case that I have investigated has had some method of "intercalating days so that they would come out correctly."

The most serious difficulty with Anderson's theory is that