

it assumes without any real proof the existence of a prophetic year to supplant the natural year which God ordained when He said that the sun, moon, and stars should "serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years."

Some additional objections should be noted. Anderson says that 483 years of 360 days each would reach exactly from the day when Artaxerxes is alleged to have given a decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the day of the triumphal entry. Yet all that the book of Nehemiah says about the time when Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah permission to revisit his homeland is that the day when the king asked him why he looked so sad -- a day on which Nehemiah happened to be serving as cupbearer -- was in the month of Nisan. Anderson insists that this must be the first day of Nisan,<sup>6</sup> but there is no evidence of any reason why that would be the particular day on which Nehemiah would be called to render this service. Hoehner says "it could have occurred on some other day in Nisan."<sup>7</sup> This admission wrecks the whole theory. Even on the assumption of the so-called prophetic year, 483 years figured from at least three quarters of the days in the month of Nisan would reach a time well beyond the resurrection of Christ.

Another serious question about Anderson's theory relates to the dates for the beginning and end of the supposed 69 weeks. He takes these to be Nisan 1 in the 20th year of Artaxerxes' reign and Nisan 10 in A.D. 32. He says that these dates correspond to March 14, 445 B.C. and April 6, A.D. 32, and that the number of the days between them works out to exactly 483 years of 360 days. But Hoehner says: "Anderson's calculations include some problems. First, in the light of new evidence since Anderson's day, the 445 B.C. date is not acceptable for Artaxerxes' twentieth year; instead the decree was given in Nisan, 444 B.C. Second, the A.D. 32 date for the crucifixion is untenable. It would mean that Christ was crucified on either a Sunday or Monday. In fact, Anderson realizes the dilemma and he has to do mathematical gymnastics to arrive at a Friday crucifixion. This makes one immediately suspect. Actually there is no good evidence for an A.D. 32 crucifixion date."<sup>8</sup>