

published in 1881 and went through numerous editions. A number of other writers have adopted Anderson's interpretation.³ It is especially unfortunate that Harold W. Hoehner's excellent book, Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ (Grand Rapids, 1977), includes a chapter in which he strongly asserts and vigorously defends Anderson's theory.

There are a number of very weak points in this interpretation. The most serious defect is its assertion that Scriptural predictions should be understood in terms of "prophetic years." This theory is based upon an alleged equivalence of the terms "middle of that 'seven'" (Dan. 9:27), "a time, times and half a time" (three and a half years) in Daniel 7:24-25, 12:7 and Revelation 12:14, "1260 days" in Revelation 11:3 and 12:6, and "42 months" in Revelation 11:2 and 13:5. Hoehner says: "Thus the 42 months equals the 1260 days, and that equals the time, times and half a time, or three and one-half years, which in turn equals the half week in Daniel 9:27. Hence the month is thirty days and the year is 360 days."⁴

Examination of these passages results in serious question as to whether their figures are meant to be precise. Are 42 months and 1260 days meant to be taken as precise figures? It is common among all peoples to use figures in a rather general way. Thirty days is a good general term for a month, and multiples of 30 stand easily for a series of months, even though less than half of our months are actually 30 days in length.

In Biblical language, as in ordinary human speech, general terms occur frequently. If a modern American should say in February that something happened "exactly a month ago" he would mean "31 days ago." If he said the same thing in March he would mean either "28 days ago" or "29 days ago," depending on whether it was a leap year. If he said it in May he would mean "30 days ago."