

A NEW LIST OF THE PERSIAN KINGS.

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FOREWORD.

IT was in 1879 that, with the help of Syriac and Arabic documents, Nöldeke drew up the first complete list of the kings of the Sasanian dynasty of Persia. That the order and the date of their succession, as stated by the celebrated Orientalist, are mostly correct is proved by the accurate synchronisms with Roman and Byzantine Emperors, the general course of events, and some ancient but newly published sources, such as the *Synodicon Orientale* made known by J. B. Chabot in 1902, and the precious history of Meshiḥa-Zeka edited with a French translation by the present writer in 1907. There is, however, in the John Rylands Library a Syriac manuscript (formerly Cod. Syr. 146 in J. Rendel Harris's collection) which contains a list of these same kings differing considerably from that hitherto known. The difference extends (*a*) to the names of the kings, and (*b*) to the date of their reign. As to the divergences of dates they may partly be accounted for by the fact that these dates are given in numerical characters, which might easily have been misread or falsified by subsequent copyists; as to the changes found in a few proper names, ex. gr. 'Amri, one must own that they are somewhat more puzzling. Warahrān is, of course, the more ancient name of Bahrām.

The composition of the list may be ascribed to the thirtieth year of Chosrau Anusharwān (A.D. 561), and if so, it is possible that we have before us the most ancient chronological table of the Sasanian monarchs. The manuscript, although modern,¹ contains tracts which could not

¹ The date of its transcription is 1861 of the Seleucids, corresponding with A.D. 1550.

have been written after the Arab invasion ; for instance, in the short vocabulary of the Biblical words which it gives, some vocables are translated into Persian, not Arabic ; further, we have no reason to question the intellectual proficiency of the author of the list in relation to the successors of Chosrau Anusharwān (A.D. 531 to 652) concerning whom he keeps silence ; this is a proof that he was writing at a time preceding their succession to the throne.

The list being certainly very ancient it has been found useful to give it for what it is worth, and for purposes of comparison we subjoin the chronological table of Nöldeke which is also reproduced in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (s.v. Persia).

TRANSLATION OF THE NEW LIST.

Names of Kings.	Years of their Reign.	Chronology According to the New List.
Ardashir (son of Baksus)	6	225-231 ¹
Sapor (his son)	31	231-262
Hormizd	2	262-264
Warahrān	10	264-274
Warahrān (Sagānshāh)	17	274-291
Narsai (Karmānshāh)	4	291-295
Hormizdād	7	295-302
Sapor (his son)	69	302-371
Ardashir (son of Sapor)	7	371-378
Sapor (his brother)	3	378-381
'Amri ²	17	381-398
Warahrān (his brother)	17	398-415
Yezdegerd (son of Sapor)	21	415-436
Warahrān (son of Yezdegerd)	21	436-457
Yezdegerd (son of Warahrān)	22	457-479
Peroz (son of Yezdegerd)	29	479-508
Balash (his brother)	27	508-535
Kawada (his brother)	42	535-577
Chosrau (his son)	30 ³	577-607

¹ We take for our starting point the year 225 instead of 226 adopted by Nöldeke ; in this we follow the exact chronology established by Meshiḥa-Zeka (in Mingana's *Sources Syriaques*, vol. i., p. 106).

² No man of this name is mentioned in Nöldeke's list, and one is almost tempted to think here of Omri, the King of Israel (1 Kings xvi. 16 sq.). As in the manuscript the preceding page is devoted to the Kings of Israel, it is possible to suppose that the copyist has by an oversight repeated in the list of the Persian Kings a name which he had used in a previous list.

³ As stated above the list was written in the thirtieth year of Chosrau Anusharwān.

NÖLDEKE'S LIST.

(From *Geschichte der Perser und Araber*, p. 435.)

Ardashir I	226-241
Sapor I	241-271
Hormizd I	272-273
Bahram I	273-276
Bahram II	276-293
Bahram III (Sagānshāh)	293
Narsai	293-302
Hormizd II	302-310
Sapor II	310-379
Ardashir II	379-383
Sapor III	383-388
Bahram IV (Karmanshāh)	388-399
Yezdegerd I	399-420
Bahram V (Gor)	420-438
Yezdegerd II	438-457
Hormizd III	457-459
Peroz	457-484
Balash	484-488
Kawadh I	488-531
(Djamasp)	496-498
Chosrau (Anusharwān)	531-579