**John MALALAS (ca. 491-578 AD),
Chronographia, Book 18 (Constantinople)**

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Malalas>

Translation: Brady Kiesling (2019) : <https://topostext.org/work/793>

**§ 18.425**  BOOK 18, YEARS OF KING JUSTINIAN [527-565 CE]
After King [Justin](https://topostext.org/people/2001), the divine [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) ruled for 38 years, 7 months, and 13 days from the 1st of April, 5th of the Indiction, the year 575 in Antioch, in the consulship of Mavortius [527 CE]. He was shortish, big-chested, well-nosed, white, curly-haired, round-faced, handsome, balding in front, florid-faced, mixed-grey hair on scalp and beard, magnanimous, [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455). He favored the Blue faction, and he was a Thracian from [Bederiana](https://topostext.org/people/8980).
This king in the sixth of the indiction [528 CE] in October promoted as Count (komes) of the East in Antioch [Patricius](https://topostext.org/people/3442) by name, an Armenian.

Event Date: 527

**§ 18.426**  To this man he gave much money, and commanded him to go and renew Palmyra, the city of Phoenicia on the border, including the churches and public {baths], commanding him to settle a legion of soldiers there with the border guards (limitanei) and the duke of Emissa to guard the Roman territory and Jerusalem. Palmyra was once great, when [David](https://topostext.org/people/546) in that place, before the city was founded, fought in single combat with Goliath, who was armed. This Goliath fell, hit by a stone, and [David](https://topostext.org/people/546) ran up and cut off his head with the sword Goliath was carrying, and he kept the head for the day, and then brought it into Jerusalem after the victory with it on a pole in front of him. Because of this, King [Solomon](https://topostext.org/people/574) made it a great city for the sake of his father [David](https://topostext.org/people/546)'s victory, and gave it the name Palmyra, from the fate (moira) of Goliath. In the past this city also guarded Jerusalem, for which reason Nabouchodonosor the king of the Persians when he passed he captured it with much trouble. He was afraid to leave it behind him. For a large number of [Jewish](https://topostext.org/people/179) soldiers were there. Having taken and burned it, he turned and took Jerusalem. [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) gave up the consulship in the sixth of the indiction, in January.

Event Date: 529

**§ 18.427**  In the same year the Persians waged war against Ztathios, king of the Laz, who making approaches to the Romans. The king of the Laz sent to the king of the Romans asking for help from him. [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) sent him three stratelates, Gilerich and Kerykos and Eirenaios, with a large Roman force, and they clashed, and many fell on both sides. Hearing this, the king of the Romans was annoyed at the stratelates, because driven by envy toward one another, the Roman stratelates had betrayed each other. Petros the stratelates came down and removed them from the province and took whatever was at hand and departed from there. The king restored the city of Armenia called Martyropolis, changing its name to Justinianopolis, remaking its walls and colonnaded streets, for they had been destroyed over time, and brought there the eastern legion. In the same year the king of the Heruli named Grepes went over to the Romans. He came to Byzantium with his army, and made proskynesis to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) and asked to become a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455). He was baptized at the Holy Epiphany and the king himself [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) was his sponsor in the undefiled baptism. With him were enlightened his senators and relatives, twelve in number.

Event Date: 529

**§ 18.428**  And giving him many gifts he dismissed him, and he traveled to his own country with his army, with the king of the Romans telling him, When I want you I will let you know.
In his reign various heresies were suppressed, and the churches were taken from them, apart from the so-called Exakionite Areians.
The whole time from the reign of [Augustus](https://topostext.org/people/8) or Octavius imperator until the completion of the second consulate of King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) in the sixth of the indiction was 559 years, while all the years from [Adam](https://topostext.org/people/18453) to the same indiction is 6497 years, as I found the number of years in the works of the chronographers [Clemens](https://topostext.org/people/2509) and [Theophilos](https://topostext.org/people/1209) and [Timotheos](https://topostext.org/people/155), who agree. In the same years for [Eusebius](https://topostext.org/people/15122) the Pamphylian I found the number of years from [Adam](https://topostext.org/people/18453) to the consulate of King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) in the 7th indiction to be 6432. [Theophilos](https://topostext.org/people/1209) and [Timotheos](https://topostext.org/people/155) et al. reckoned the years rather more accurately. So everyone's accounts give the sixth millennium having come to an end. From the founding of Rome until the second consulship [528 CE] of the Divine [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) 1280 years, more or less, from the founding of Constantinople until the said consulship of [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) and the completion of the seventh of the indiction 199 years.

Event Date: 529

**§ 18.429**  It is unnecessary to reckon the years of the old kings in the previously stated year number of their reign because of there being two ruling together. Likewise the fathers crowned their sons from childhood and they reigned with them. So the chronicler needs to write the years each king ruled. Therefore it is necessary for those who read chronicles to pay attention to the number of years as they run and only for the rule of all the previously written. In these times, as I said, the Divine [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) was reigning, and [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the Darasthene, son of [Perozes](https://topostext.org/people/12249) over the Persians; in Rome Allarichos, grandson of Valemeriacus; in Africa the Rex Gilderich the grandson of Ginzirich; over the Indian Auxumites reigned Andas, who became a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455); over the Iberians Samanazos. In the aforesaid year of Justianian's reign a stratelates (field marshal) of Armenia named Ztittas (Sittas) was dispatched. In the previous years, Armenia had not had a stratelates, but dukes and archons and counts. The king gave the stratelates legions of soldiers from the two governors and the [count of the?] East.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.430**  He mobilized local skriniarii and made them stratelatiani skriniarii by royal decree. He had asked the king to recruit the natives, since they knew the territory of Armenia. He granted him this and the rights of the Armenian dukes and of their counts and consuls; the soldiers had formerly been kastrisiani, but the former magistracies had been dissolved. He took from the stratelates of the East four legions. A large militia came in being then for the Romans. He was a martial man, who took the sister of [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976) the [Augusta](https://topostext.org/people/18120) as his wife, Komito her name, who was given in marriage in the house of [Antiochus](https://topostext.org/people/14444), near the Hippodrome of Constantinople.
In the same year the king issued a divine edict about bishops/guardians and orphan-custodians and stewards and innkeepers so that whatever property each had before becoming one of the aforementioned, that property alone was at his disposal, and henceforth his property would be declared in order for him to be assigned.
In this year the area of Sykai was restored, with the theater and walls, and it was renamed Justinianoupolis. In this year a queen of the Sabeiran Huns went over to the Romans, a woman of courage and stature and wisdom, a widow named Boa, who had two young sons and 100 thousand under her.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.431**  She ruled over the Hunnish territory after the death of her husband Blach. Influenced by King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) with many hospitality gifts of royal clothing and various accessories in silver and not a little money, she arrested and held captive two other Hunnish kings, whom [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the king of the Persians was inducing to ally with him against the Romans. Having taken them, the Regissa Boa crossed over into Persian territory against [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226), king of the Persians, with an army of 20 thousand, most of whom were killed in the battle. The one Rex of theirs, Tyranx, she captured and sent bound to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) in Constantinople, and he hanged him at St. [Konon](https://topostext.org/people/164)'s across the water. Glom, the other Rex of the Huns, was killed in the battle by the Regissa's warriors. In that year the Rex of the Huns near the Bosporos, named Grod, defected to the king. and he came to Constantinople and was baptized. The King received him for baptism, and gave him many things and sent him back to his country to guard the Roman territory and Bosporos, which city [Heracles](https://topostext.org/people/4) from Spain had founded, and made it to pay taxes to the Romans, giving [cows](https://topostext.org/people/10978) instead of money to the Romans, and gave it the name Boon Phoros (tax of [cows](https://topostext.org/people/10978)), which he commanded it to contribute.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.432**  He stationed a unit of Roman or Italian soldiers here, called the Spaniards, and gave them a tribune to guard with them. In this city there was intercourse between Romans and Huns. The Rex who had become a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455) went to his own country near Bosporos and found his brother. He left him with a Hunnish army and departed. The Huns venerated statues, and they took them and melted them down. They were made of silver and electrum, and they exchanged them in Bosporos, taking miliarisia in exchange. The priests of the Huns were enraged and killed the Rex and replaced him with his brother Mougel. Bothered by the Romans they came to Bosporos and killed the city garrison. When he heard this, the King made [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053), one of the consuls, the Count of the Narrows of the Pontic Sea, whom he ordered to be stationed in Hieron at the mouth of Pontos. He sent him with a Gothic army, and he mobilized against these Huns, with the Kings sending through the Pontic Sea ships full of soldiers and an Exarch, and similarly by land, sending a large army and general Baduarius. Hearing this the barbarians fled, and Bosporos was at peace under Roman rule.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.433**  In the same year the Indians waged war on each other, the Axumites and the Homerites [Himyarites]. The cause of the war was this. The king of the Axumites is inland from the Homerites, and the king of the Homerites is close to Egypt. Roman merchants come through the Homerites to Axum and the inner kingdoms of the Indians. For there are seven kingdoms of the Indians and Ethiopians, three of the Indians, four of the Ethiopians, which are near the ocean in the eastern parts. When the merchants entered the Homerite country to do business, Dimnos the king of the Homerites learned of it, killed them, and took all their goods, saying that the Roman [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455) maltreat the [Jews](https://topostext.org/people/179) in their parts and kill many every year. So trade was blocked. The king of the Axumites declared to the king of the Homerites that, “You did wrong to kill Roman [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455) merchants and you harmed my kingdom.” From that a great enmity arose and they went to war. Preparing for the war, the king of the Axumites pledged

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.434**  that “If I defeat Dimnos the king of the Homerites I will become a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455).” For this was a war on behalf of the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455). The king of the Axumites defeated him and took him prisoner, and killed him and all his retinue, and took the country and his kingship. After the victory he sent two of his senators and 200 with them to Alexandria, asking King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) to let him take a bishop and clerics and to be catechized and taught the [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455) mysteries and be enlightened, and all the Indian country to be under the Romans. All this was conveyed to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) by [Licinius](https://topostext.org/people/232) the Augustalis of Alexandria. The king decreed that they could take whomever they wanted as bishop. The Indian ambassadors chose the custodian (paramonarios) of St. John in Alexandria, a pious man, a virgin, named [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053), age 62. Taking the bishop and clergy they selected, they took them to the Indian country to Andas their king.
In the same year there was enmity between the dux of Palestine, [Diomedes](https://topostext.org/people/124) the Silentiarius, and Arethas the phylarch (tribal leader). Frightened, Arethas entered the inner limits of the Indian country. Learning this, Alamoundaros the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) of the Persians attacked the Roman phylarch, caught him, and killed him. He had with him 30,000 men.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.435**  Learning this, King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) wrote to the Dukes of Phoenicia and Arabia and [Mesopotamia](https://topostext.org/people/290) and the phylarchs of the provinces to go out against him and chase him and his army. Immediately, Arethas the phylarch and Gnoufas and Naaman and [Dionysius](https://topostext.org/people/23) the Dux of Phoenicia and [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) [dux] of Euphratesia and Sebastianos the chiliarch went out with a military force. Alamoundaros the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) learned this and fled to Indian territory with his [Saracenic](https://topostext.org/people/11026) army. The Duces of the Romans and the phylarchs entered with their army, but were not able to catch him. They set out against Persian territory and captured their tents and took a host of men, women, and children hostage, and whatever [camels](https://topostext.org/people/10950) they found, and various other beasts. They burned four Persian forts, having captured them with the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) and Persians inside, and returned to Roman territory victorious.
The King completed the public bath in Constantinople which King [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101) had begun to build, named Dagistheus’.

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**§ 18.436**  He also built the inner channel of the royal cistern, desiring to bring the Hadrianic aqueduct to it. He also renewed the city aqueduct.
In that years some of the bishops from various provinces were accused of indecent carnal behavior and of sleeping with males. Among whom were Isaias the bishop of Rhodes, who had been night watch commissioner of Constantinople, and likewise the bishop of Diospolis in Thrace, named [Alexandros](https://topostext.org/people/13). They were brought by royal order to Constantinople. After being examined, they were stripped of their offices by Victor, the city eparch, who punished them. After torturing Isaias harshly, he exiled him. He cut off the male member of [Alexandros](https://topostext.org/people/13), and paraded him in a litter. The King immediately ordered that those detected in pederasty have their member cut off. Many male homosexuals were arrested in that period, who died after this amputation. From then there was great fear regarding those who suffering the disease of desire for males.
In this year, Pompeioupolis of Mysia suffered divine anger. When the shaking occurred, suddenly the earth split and half the city was swallowed up with its inhabitants. They were underground, and the sound they made reached the survivors. The King was very generous in digging out and saving those underground, and also to the survivors and to the city for its rebuilding.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.437**  The King renewed the laws enacted by previous kings, and made new laws he sent to the cities. The magistrate could not build a house or buy an estate in the place he governed, unless he had some relative there, so that the co-owners could not be compelled by violence or anyone forced to sell to him by the magistrate’s influence.
Likewise about natural children, that they inherit in accordance with the law of King [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101).
Again on inheritance, he allowed an inheritance to be declined at any time, and not to be barred by time.
On witnesses, that private citizens be compelled to testify even when they were unwilling.
The king made a gift of the Gothic wood-oil tax, relieving his subjects of this burden.
In his reign, two Hunnish generals attacked Scythia and Mysia with an army. A Roman stratelates was there, Baduarius, and Justinus, and they attacked the Huns. When battle was joined, Justinus was killed in the fighting, so Constantiolus the son of [Florentius](https://topostext.org/people/2106) became stratelates of Mysia.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.438**  The Huns came pillaging as far as Thrace. The stratelates Constantiolus and Godilas and the stratelates of Illyricum Askoum the [Hun](https://topostext.org/people/12084), whom king [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) had received in Holy Baptism, went out against them. The Huns were surrounded in the battle and many of them fell. All the plunder escaped, and the Romans were more stronger. They killed the two reges. But while they were returning, they were met by other Huns, and did battle when the Roman generals were weaker from fatigue. They fled. The Huns pursued them and lassoed the Roman exarchs. Godilas drew his sword, cut the lasso, and got free. Constantiolus was dragged from his [horse](https://topostext.org/people/10959) to the ground, and Askoum was caught. They took them both prisoner. Constantiolus they gave back after receiving 10,000 nomismata from the king of he Romans, and he returned to Constantinople. They kept Askoum the [Hun](https://topostext.org/people/12084) and went back to their country with many other prisoners. Then Thrace was peaceful.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.439**  In that year the patrician [Probus](https://topostext.org/people/879), a relative of king [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101), was in trouble for allegedly insulting King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643). A conventus was held, with a written record, and all the minutes were read to the King after examining [Probus](https://topostext.org/people/879) in the presence of the Senate. The King took the minutes and tore them up. He said to [Probus](https://topostext.org/people/879), “I forgive your sin committed against me. Pray that God forgives you too.” The King was extolled by the Senate.
In this year, one Eulalius, Count of the Domestics, from being wealthy became poor in the following manner. A fire broke out where he lived, and he fled naked with his three offspring. Under not a few loan obligations, and about to die, he contrived a will, directed at King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643). He wrote in his will that the most pious [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) should provide my daughters 15 folleis each per day, and when they reach adulthood and come to be married, they receive a dowry of ten litra of gold. My creditors to be paid off by my heir. Eulalius died after this, and the will was brought to the king by the curator. He commanded him to serve as substitute for the inheritance. The man went to the house where Eulalius lived, and made an inventory of his property, which amounted to 564 nomismata. He went back and reported to the king the valuation of the property and the legacies he had left. The king permitted the curator Macedonius to enter as the heir. When the curator objected to the king that what was left would not cover the amounts in the will, the King told him, “Why are you blocking be from accepting the inheritance, when I want to behave piously? Go, pay off all his creditors and the legacies he indicated. I order you to bring his three daughters to [Augusta](https://topostext.org/people/18120) [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976) and guard them in the imperial cubiculum.” He commanded that each of them be given 20 gold litra for dowry and all the property their father had left them.
In that time, the pious [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976), in addition to many other good things, did this. The pimps (πορνοβοσκοί – "whoreherd") used to go around each place looking for poor people who had daughters. Giving sworn assurances and a few nomismata, they would take them, as if to be trained, and then put them on the street as public prostitutes, in order to profit from their misery, collecting from them the unlucky profit from their bodies, while forcing them to be prostitutes. She commanded that such pimps be arrested with all compulsion and brought to her together with the girls.

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**§ 18.441**  She ordered each to declare on oath what gift he had given to the parents. They said they had given five nomismata apiece. After all had supplied information under oath, the pious queen gave the money and freed the girls from the yoke of unhappy slavery. She commanded that they not be pimps in the future. She granted the girls clothing and one nomisma apiece, and let them go. As the Indiction ended, [Augusta](https://topostext.org/people/18120) [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976) set off for Pythion with patricians and cubicularii, four thousand strong. She granted many gifts to the churches in each place and returned to Constantinople.
In this year, it was announced to king [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) that there had been a battle between Persians and Romans, with the Persians attacking [Mesopotamia](https://topostext.org/people/290) with 30,000 soldiers and [Xerxes](https://topostext.org/people/56), the son of King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226). [Perozes](https://topostext.org/people/12249), his older son, was waging war with a large following against Lazike and [Persarmenia](https://topostext.org/people/10033). Their father [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) did not attack Roman territory at that time. Kouztis the son of [Vitalianus](https://topostext.org/people/10487), a most warlike man, and [Sebastianus](https://topostext.org/people/2256) with the Isaurian contingent, and Procleianus the dux of Phoenicia, and [Basileios](https://topostext.org/people/4453) the Count went out against Meran and [Xerxes](https://topostext.org/people/56). [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) was with them, and Tapharas the phylarch. The [horse](https://topostext.org/people/10959) of Tapharas was cut down, and he fell to earth and was killed, and likewise Procleianus.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.442**  [Sebastianus](https://topostext.org/people/2256) and [Basileios](https://topostext.org/people/4453) were taken prisoners. Koutztis was wounded and captured. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) fled and escaped. These events were reported to king [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643), and he was sorely aggrieved. Some of the Persian generals also fell, along with much of their army. They returned to their own country.
The king sent senators from Constantinople with armies to guard the cities of the east. The patrician [Platon](https://topostext.org/people/12503) to Amedia; [Theodoros](https://topostext.org/people/14736) the patrician to Edesa; [Alexandros](https://topostext.org/people/13) the son of Ierius to Beroea, and other senators to Souron and Konstantina to guard the cities. In that time, the patrician Pompius was sent with a large force of Illyrians, Scythians, Isaurians, and Thracians. There was a truce in the war by agreement of the Romans and Persians because of the severe winter.
At this time, Antioch suffered the wrath of god, for the sixth time. The earthquake lasted an hour, and with it a fearful roaring noise, so that the structures rebuilt after previous disasters collapsed, along with the city walls and some churches.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.443**  The events were heard in the other cities, and all grieved and held worship services. Places around the city also suffered. As many as five thousand souls were lost in the earthquake. The survivors dwelt in the other cities, and some outside in the mountains. Patriarch Ephraimios conveyed all this to the King. When those in Byzantium heard what had happened, they held services for several days.
In the same year, Laodikeia happened to suffer from earthquake, its first such disaster. Half the city was knocked down by the calamity, and the [Jewish](https://topostext.org/people/179) synagogues. Seven and a half thousand people died in the calamity, a host of [Jews](https://topostext.org/people/179) but few [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455). The city’s churches remained intact, saved by God. The King granted the Laodikeans two centenaria to dig out the city.
In this year, Antioch was renamed Theoupolis at the behest of St. Symeon the miracle-worker. A written prophecy had been found in Antioch with this content: “And you, wretched city, will not be called of [Antiochus](https://topostext.org/people/14444).” In the papers of those who had written the Acta of the city it was discovered that they used to shout, giving an omen for the renaming of the city. This was convey to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643),

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**§ 18.444**  and he granted divine generosity to the Antiochenes and Laodikeans and Seleuceians, so that they would be relieved of their tax contribution for three years. He granted the cities 200 litras, and the rank of Illustrious to the ktetores.
In that year there surfaced in Persian territory a Manichaean dogma. Learning this, the king of the Persians was angry, as were the arch-[Magi](https://topostext.org/people/12091). For these Manichaeans were even appointing a bishop, named Indarazar. The Persian King made a silentium. Having seized all the Manichaeans and their bishop, he commanded the armed soldiers in attendance, and they cut down all the Manichaeans with swords, including the bishop and clergy. They were all killed in the presence of the King and the [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455) bishop. Their property was confiscated and their churches were given to the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455), and royal letters were sent through all the state he governed, so that any Manichaean they found would be burned and all their books incinerated. This was all described by a Persian transport worker who was baptized and renamed [Timotheus](https://topostext.org/people/155).
In that year the Roman king renamed Theodorias the fortress called Anasarthon, and gave it city status. Similarly, he renamed the fortress in Sousa Justinianoupolis.

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**§ 18.445**  In that year Alamoundaros, the Persians’ [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026), came with a Persian and [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) army and plundered First Syria as far as the borders of Antioch, burning parts of that country. When they heard, the Roman exarchs went out against them. The [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) learned this and fled to the outer border taking their plunder.
In this year, the aqueduct of Alexandria the Great was renewed by King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643).
When the King heard what the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) had done, he sent no small contingent of foot soldiers from Phrygia, the Lykokranites, and they attacked the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) and Persian territory. At this time, [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) was appointed Exarch of the Romans by the King, replacing the patrician [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) who was stratelates before him. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) was entrusted with the army and the Duces for the battle against the Persians. In that time [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) the Magister, the Scythian, a wise man, was sent to Persia. In June, the 7th of the Indiction there was a national insurgency, where the Samaritans engaged in battle with the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455) and [Jews](https://topostext.org/people/179). Many places were burned in Scythopolis by the Samaritans. Hearing this, the King was angry at the [Archon](https://topostext.org/people/1126) [Bassus](https://topostext.org/people/837), whom he replaced and beheaded in the country.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.446**  The Samaritans, learning the anger against them, revolted and crowned as leader a brigand chief named [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732), a Samaritan, and they burned estates and churches and murdered many [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455). He came to Neapolis and watched the [horse](https://topostext.org/people/10959)-racing with a host of Samaritans. One Nikeas won the first palm, a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455) charioteer. There were other charioteers in Neapolis, Samaritans and [Jews](https://topostext.org/people/179), whom Nikeas had defeated. He approached the usurper, expecting to be honored. He asked him what religion he was. Learning that he was a [Christian](https://topostext.org/people/455), and receiving this first victory of the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455) as a symbol against him, as indeed it proved, he immediately sent and had the charioteer decapitated in the hippodrome. He also mishandled the bishop of the city. When the Archons of Palestine and Dux [Theodorus](https://topostext.org/people/14736) the snub-nosed learned the effrontery of the usurper, they notified King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) immediately. The Dux went out against him with a large army, and took the phylarch of Palestine with him. Learning this, the usurper [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732) the Samaritan fled from Neapolis. The Dux and his army pursued him and they clashed in battle. The Dux cut down a host of Samaritans and captured the Samaritan [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732), God having handed him over.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.447**  He beheaded him and sent his head with the diadem to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643). When the events were made known to the King, of the usurpation of the Samaritans and the unfortunate [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732), the notice from the Archons reached Constantinople together with the usurper’s head. Twenty thousand Samaritans fell in the war. Some fled to Mt. Arparizin (Har Garizin?) and others to Trachonida, to the Iron Mountain. The [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) phylarch of the Romans took as booty 20,000 boys and girls. These captives he sold in Persian and Indian territory.
The King learned that the Samaritans had burned many estates of Palestine in the beginning when they revolted. He was annoyed at the Dux of Palestine, because before they attacked the estates or the city, as soon as he heard they were gathering, he did not set out against them and scatter them. Receiving the Dux harshly, he commanded that he be held under guard. Eirenaeus the Antiochene was sent as Dux in his place. He attacked the remaining Samaritans in the mountains, and killed many, punishing them harshly.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.448**  The King of the Persians [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) received [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) Magister, who had been sent in friendship in an embassy with gifts following the public proclamation of King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) in July. At that time, Amaseia in Pontus and the surrounding area suffered from divine anger. The King granted much to the city.
In that year there was a recodification of old laws. Having made laws, he sent them to all the cities, with the aim of not letting those on trial suffer oppression and harm but quickly be absolved of it. He created a single-volume version (monobiblon) and sent it to Athens and Berytos.
The King separated the cities of Laodikeia, Gabala, and Paltos from Antioch of First Syria, and from Apameia of Second Syria he took the city Balanea, and made a province he called Theodorias, and to the first city he gave metropolitan status. He did not free the bishop of Laodikeia from being under the Patriarch of Antioch.
In this year, Myra the metropolis of Lycia suffered the wrath of God. The King granted much to those remaining and to the city, for buildings.
In the same year there was rioting in Antioch the Great, in the theater. News of the riot was brought to the King. Annoyed, he banned theater spectacles so that henceforth they would not be performed in Antioch.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.449**  In this year there was a great persecution of Hellenes, and many were confiscated. Among those who died were Makedonius, [Asklepiodotos](https://topostext.org/people/1585), Phokas the son of [Krateros](https://topostext.org/people/17431), and [Thomas](https://topostext.org/people/6014) the Quaestor. Much fear resulted. The King legislated that Hellenizers not hold office, while those of other sects disappeared in the Roman state, after getting a deadline of three months in which to join the communion of the Orthodox faith. This divine edict was posted in all the outlying cities.
At this time, the consular [Priscus](https://topostext.org/people/1008), one of the kings notaries, fell out of favor. His property was confiscated, and he was made a deacon and sent to Cyzicus.
At that time, [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) the Magister returned from Persian territory after giving the gifts. He brought back the response from [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226), the Persian king, to [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643), King of the Romans, carrying a royal letter with the following content:
“[Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) King of Kings, of the sunrise, to [Flavius](https://topostext.org/people/778) Justinianus Caesar, of the moonset. We have found in our archives writings calling one another “Brother,” and saying that if anything of manpower or money was lacking, the other would provide.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.450**  We are reminded from that, and up to the present we have conducted ourselves in this way. Whenever nations rose up against, some we were compelled to confront in battle, while others we persuaded to submit through a grant of money, and now it is clear that everything in our treasury has been spent. We wrote this to Kings [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101) and [Justin](https://topostext.org/people/2001), and we obtained nothing. Hence we are compelled to deploy for war, being near Roman territory, and we will be obliged to destroy those in the middle, though they have sinned in no way, on the pretext of their disobedience. But as pious [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455), spare souls and bodies, and send us gold. If you do not do this, prepare yourselves for war, with a deadline of this whole year, so that we not be thought to have stolen our victory and prevailed in war through guile.”
In this year, King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) gave the Antiochenes his toga, which had royal stones. It was spread out in the church of Kassianos.
In this consulship of [Decius](https://topostext.org/people/869), [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180) defected to the Romans, by race a Gepid, son of a Rex, following the death of his father at the hands of Thraustilas his uncle. He stayed in Sirmium.

Event Date: 529

**§ 18.451**  Learning this, the Rex of Rome, Valemeriacus or Theuderic, sent to urge [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180), and persuaded him to come to him with his men. He stayed with him, and fought on behalf of Valemeriacus Theuderic. [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180) left Rome and went to the Danube river. He sent to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) and asked to come under his rule. He and his men were accepted; he was appointed stratelates of the Illyrian nation, and sent off to that military command. After he occupied the Illyrian land, the Huns attacked him with a large army of various barbarians. He set out against them, and destroyed them all. He sent part of the spoils and one of their kings. There was peace in Thrace, and fear held the barbarian nations in check after this.
In the consulship of [Decius](https://topostext.org/people/869), the King sent a decree to Athens with a command that no one teach philosophy or expound astronomy [but Dindorf’s text reads ‘nomima’] and that there be no dice-playing in [any] one of the cities, after some dice-players, who were discovered in Byzantium surrounding themselves with terrible blasphemies, had their hands cut off and were paraded about on [camels](https://topostext.org/people/10950).

Event Date: 529

**§ 18.452**  In that year, an annual income of 4000 nomismata was granted to the guesthouse of Antioch by the pious King. In that year, as well, the honorable corpse of St. [Marinus](https://topostext.org/people/1842) the martyr was found in First Syria outside the city of Gindaros. A traveler [circuit-rider?] of the country had several times seen in a vision the place where the saint lay, having iron nails from his head along his whole body, stretched out and nailed to a board. He was placed in a carved-out rock for a tomb. His corpse was taken up and brought and deposited outside Antioch in St. [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732).
In that year, Roman ambassadors [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) and [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) the stratelates were sent as ambassadors to Persian lands, in the consulship of [Lampadius](https://topostext.org/people/5739) and [Orestes](https://topostext.org/people/120). They arrived at Dora [Dara], which had been renamed Anastasioupolis, and sent a notification to Persian King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226). The King deferred receiving them. While they were staying in Dora with [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) the stratelates and other exarchs and the military escort, and were camping outside Dara to receive the reply of the Persian King, Miram, the first exarch of the Persians, and the son of the Persian King, along with other Persian exarchs was based at Nisibis. Learning that the Romans were camped outside Dara, the Persians attacked with 70,000 men, divided in three commands.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.453**  When the Roman exarchs learned this, they launched an attack on the Persians. In the battle the Persian and Roman camps came in contact, and the Romans cut down the Persians by force, and captured a Persian standard. Miram fled with a few men and the King’s son and escaped to Nisibis. In the battle, a Persian exarch named Sagos was killed, after Sounikas the dux and exarch of the Romans challenged him to single combat. It was a victory worth seeing over Persian senselessness, with the dead stretched on the ground.
when he learned this, King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) allowed the patrician [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) to come with Count [Alexandros](https://topostext.org/people/13) on the embassy.
In that year a village messenger from Italy appeared, who had a yellow [dog](https://topostext.org/people/10953), that at his trainer’s command would perform amazing feats. His trainer would stand in the market, and when a crowd gathered to watch, he would take rings from the bystanders, keeping them secret from the [dog](https://topostext.org/people/10953), put them on the ground, and cover them with dirt. He would then let the [dog](https://topostext.org/people/10953) pick them up and give each ring to its owner. The [dog](https://topostext.org/people/10953) would search with his mouth and give the recognized ring to each. The same [dog](https://topostext.org/people/10953) could fetch a myriad of coins of different emperors by name.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.454**  While the crowd of men and women stood there, on being asked he would identify the pregnant women and the pimps and adulterers and misers and the magnanimous, always accurately. Hence many said that he had the spirit of [Pytho](https://topostext.org/people/1639).
During his reign a large and fearsome star appeared in the west, sending up a white ray, like lightning. Some called it a torch-bearer. It remained shining for 20 days. Afterwards there were droughts and civic murders in each city, and many other things that fulfilled the threat.
When September was over, the Roman ambassadors sent to Persia returned, having made a treaty. Learning this, that there was peace for the Romans, King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) was full of joy. He took the letters of the treaty and read the content, as follows: “Our ambassadors returning to us, who were sent to your Clemency, have informed us of the noble character of your paternal disposition. For all we thank God the Master that the affair happened in a way befitting His goodness, and peace proceeds with God for the benefit of two states. That great glory and praise be in all the land to God and peace to mankind, between the two worlds,

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.455**  in the time of Your Clemency and Ours, whose genuine love for you is obvious. The enemies of each state will fall, since with God this has happened. Our ambassadors will speedily follow, who ought to fulfill the things needed for the security of the peace. So we pray that your paternal disposition be preserved for many years.”
[Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) was sent again by the Romans to Persian lands, carrying a second response. He found the Persian King pulling back from what had been agreed between them for the sake of peace. For it was rumored that the Samaritan Romans, out of favor with King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643), as written above, had left their country of Palestine and gone to [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the Persian King, saying they would ally with him. Their number was 50,000. They said they would hand over to the Persian king their country, all of Palestine and the Holy Places, a city graced with offering by various kings, including much gold and an innumerable quantity of precious stones. Hearing this, the Persian King was persuaded by what they said, and pulled back from making the treaty. His argument was about gold mines that had been discovered earlier, during the reign of King [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101), which were under the Romans. Those mountains had previously been under the Persian state. The gold-bearing mountains lie between the borders of the Roman Armenians and the Persarmenians, as observers claim.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.456**  These mountains yield much gold. When there are rains and downpours, the soil of the mountains is washed down, and it teems with flakes of gold. The mountains had been rented in the past by some Romans and Persians, for 200 litra of gold. From the time these mountains had been taken by the most godlike [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101), only Romans had collected the agreed-upon taxes. For this reason, there was subterfuge regarding the treaty.
The treachery of the Samaritans became known to the Roman, as a result of the arrest of some wealthy ones who were returning from Persian parts. They were recognized, after they had gone to [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the Persian King and agreed with him to betray their country, as mentioned above. The Samaritans who were recognized were five names. On arrest, they were brought to the Stratelates of the East and questioned by him. They admitted the treason they were considering. The interrogation record was read to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643).
In this year there were earthquakes in places, and people in each city devoted themselves to prayer.
At this time, an ambassador was sent by the King of the Persians to the King of the Romans. He handed over the royal letters he was bringing and was sent back with gifts.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.457**  The King of the Romans heard from Patrician [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) of the transgression by Persian King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226). He made a divine command and sent to the king of the Axumites [or Arethas King of the Ethiopians, wrongly in [Theophanes](https://topostext.org/people/13023)]. This king of the Indians had fought a battle with the king of the Amerite [Himyarite] Indians. Defeating him, he took his kingdom and the whole country, and made Anganes, who was of the same lineage, king of the Amerite Indians, so that the kingship of the Amerite Indians would be under him. The Roman ambassador sailed to Alexandria, up the Nile river and the Indian Sea, and reached India. He arrived at the king of the Indians, who welcomed him as a guest with much joy, because for many years he had been asking for friendship to be established with the Roman king. As the ambassador has told in full, when the Indian king received him, he instructed him on the shape of the Indian royal circumstances; that he was naked and at his waist, as far as his buttocks, he had a cloth-of-gold garment, and wore on his stomach and shoulders crossed bands with pearls and five stripes and gold bracelets on his arms, and on his head a cloth-of-gold turban twirled around, with four rows in each part. He had a gold necklace on his throat. He stood upon four elephants, yoked with four wheels, as in a tall cart clad in golden petals, just as the carts of the archons of the provinces are clad in silver.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.458**  The king of the Indians stood holding a small gilded shield and held two javelins, also gilded, in his hands. His whole senate stood the same way, with weapons, and flutes played melodies.
The ambassador of the Romans was brought in. He bent the knee and did proskynesis. The king of the Indians ordered him to stand up and approach him. He took the royal letter from the Roman King and kissed the seal [which had the bust of the King (THEOPH.)]. He accepted the gifts sent by the King and was surprised. Opening and reading the letter through an interpreter, he found it contained a request to arm against [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the Persian King, and to ravage the adjoining part of his country and in future to have no dealings with him, but through the country of the Amerite Indians he had conquered, and via the Nile to Egypt, to do his trading in Alexandria. Immediately, Elesboas, the king of the Indians, in the sight of the Roman ambassador, initiated war against the Persians. He first sent the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) Indians he controlled, and attacking the Persian country on behalf of the Romans. He declared to the King of the Persians that he would receive the Indian king waging war on him to pillage the whole land he ruled.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.459**  With all this proceeding in this way, the Indian king grasped the head of the Roman ambassador, gave him the kiss of peace, and sent him back with a large entourage. He also sent royal letters through an Indian ambassador, and gifts for the King of the Romans.
In this year a petition was sent by Gilderic the Rex of the Africans, that his cousin/nephew was usurping his rule; also, war was being joined between the Maurousians and the Africans, and they had taken much of his country, of which they had captured what they call Tripolis and Leptoma and Sabatha and Byzakis, and had taken many prisoners. Gilderic the Rex of the Africans mobilized against them, with a large army and a general named [Gelimer](https://topostext.org/people/12049). He engaged the Maurousians and prevailed by force. He then concluded a friendship with them, took them into alliance, usurped power, and attacked Gilderic in Carthage. He captured him and shut him in his house with his wife and children, and put the senators to death. [Gelimer](https://topostext.org/people/12049) sent gifts to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) through his ambassador. When they informed him about this, the King of the Romans was angry at them on account of the Rex of the Africans. He had found out about the usurpation against Gilderic, so he sent them away with much insult.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.460**  He sent a magisterial in Rome to Rex Athalaric, the grandson of Valemeriacus, instructing him not to receive ambassadors sent to him from [Gelimer](https://topostext.org/people/12049), nor to give him the title of Rex, because he was a usurper. He accepted the letters sent to him from the King, and agreed, and did not accept ambassadors from [Gelimer](https://topostext.org/people/12049) the African.
In this year the King wanted to contend with the Persians by land and sea. He sent an army to guard the Roman state and keep it untroubled.
In that year an appeal was sent to Ephraimios the patriarch from those who remained prisoners of [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248) the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026), saying they were subject to bitter torments. He had decapitated some of them, fearing treason. Some had fallen at his feet and begged him for a few days’ respite so they could send an appeal to the Roman state for money to be sent to ransom them. [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248) was pleased, hearing them beg, they said. He gave them a 60-day deadline, with Taizanes the tribal chief of the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) lobbying on their behalf. The appeal was sent and read in Antioch, and all were in tears over the content, to set up collection boxes in each church for each to contribute what he could.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.461**  The patriarch took the lead in feeling pangs, with the clergy and the Archons, and they gave voluntarily. When the appeal sent by the prisoners was read, the whole Demos asked for an assembly to be held. With the whole Demos assembled, a carpet was spread out, and each threw what he could on the carpet. When it was all collected and sent, the prisoners were released.
IN the same year the Magister [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) was sent to the Eastern territories for the Persian War. The King of the Romans had learned that Exarath the stratelates of the Persians, with a Persian army and a royal standard, had set out into Roman territory. Also, [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248) the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) kinglet had come with a large armed force through Kirkesion and appeared in Kallinikon, the city of Osdroene.
Realizing this, [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) the stratelates joined forces with the Duces, with 8000, among whom he found Arethas the phylarchos with 5000. The Persians set out by night with their [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) and camped near the fortress of Gabboula, which has a small river beside it. They made a ditch there and scattered around the circumference of the ditch three-pointed irons (caltrops) over a large space, leaving one entry for themselves.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.462**  Sounikas the Dux followed behind them with 4000 men. He found some of the Persians and [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) despoiling the nearby villages. He pursued them, killed a few of them, and captured some others, from whom under questioning he learned what they were planning.
The Roman Magister reached Hierapolis and learned that the Persians were encamped on Roman territory. He went toward [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) who was near the Persians with [Stephanos](https://topostext.org/people/309) and Apskal, the Exarchs, and [Simmas](https://topostext.org/people/6924) the Dux, with 4000 men, toward Barbaisissos [Barbalissos] city. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) was angry at Sounikas, because he had acted on his own in attacking the Persian army. When the Magister arrived, he made them become friends, and urged them to set out against the Persians. The Persians and [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) were intercepted at the village called Beselathon going against Batna and the surrounding cities. The Persians, by making siege engines and digging mines, destroyed the wall of Gabboula. They entered and killed everyone they found, killing the captives as well. They captured other places by making surprise raids.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.463**  Hearing what had happened, the Antiochenes fled for the coast of Syria. When the Roman generals declared to them that they were prepared to fight them (for the Persians had made clear that a war was under way), they took all the plunder and fled at night. Learning this, [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) and the Roman exarchs pursued and caught up with them. The Persians turned to stand their ground. Marshalling themselves, they encamped on the border, planning to cross the Euphrates. Similarly, the Roman exarchs marshalled and stood up their troops opposite the Persians, having the Euphrates river at their backs. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) send the ships to wait by the shores of the river. In the area to the south, Arethas camped with [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368) and Mamas, the exarchs of the Isaurians. To the north, Sounikas and [Simmas](https://topostext.org/people/6924) had their army. On the 19th of April on Holy Saturday of Easter, the battle began. The Persians launched an attack against Sounikas and [Simmas](https://topostext.org/people/6924) and the Romans resisted. Using trickery, the Persians retreated from them. Reuniting, the Persians noticed that the Romans had the Euphrates behind them, and attacked with the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026). Many fell on both sides. Of the Persians fell Andrazes, a chiliarch, and Naaman, the son of [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248), and of the Roman [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) Abros the Dux was captured. Stephanacius was wounded and fell.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.464**  When the fracas began, Apskal attacked the Persian center, but his [horse](https://topostext.org/people/10959) stepped on a dead body and he was killed in the middle of them. When the Phrygians saw their leader fallen and his standard captured by the Persians, they turned to flee, and the Roman [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) fled with them. Others stood firm, fighting beside Arethas. Some suspected that prominent [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) had fled because of treachery by their phylarchs. The Isaurians who were standing near them saw the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) fleeing, and threw themselves in the Euphrates, believing they could get across. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) saw what happened and taking his own company boarded a ship. He crossed the Euphrates and came to Kallinikon. His army followed him. Some embarked on the ships, while others tried to swim with their [horses](https://topostext.org/people/10959), and filled the river with corpses. Sounikas and [Simmas](https://topostext.org/people/6924) persisted in fighting the Persians. The two exarchs with their surviving soldiers dismounted from their [horses](https://topostext.org/people/10959) and fought bravely on foot. Using good tactics, they killed many of the Persians, and did not permit them to pursue the fugitives. They even intercepted three of their exarchs, killing two and capturing one alive, Amerdach by name, a very warlike man whose right arm was cut off at the elbow by Sounikas.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.465**  They persisted in fighting with their army. They were overtaken by nightfall, after the Persians had pursued them for two miles, while the Roman exarchs and their army entered Kallinikon. The next day at sunrise, they left Kallinikon, crossed the Euphrates with their army and the citizens, and plundered the corpses of the Persians. The Magister learned all the events of the war and reported them to the King of the Romans. Receiving the letters, King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) sent letters ordering Tzittas the stratelates Praesenti, who was in Armenia, to go the East to join forces. This Tzittas had captured Persian territories. He went through the Armenian mountains and entered Samosata. Constantiolus was also ordered to come to the East, to find out the truth about the war. When he reached Antioch, he set out toward the Roman exarchs, hoping to learn the whole truth.
At that time [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732), the eparch of the Praetorians, was replaced by [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the Cappadocian.
The Romans learned that Persian exarchs with a Persian and [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) army had attacked Osdroene, digging a moat around the fortress called Abgersaton, built by [Abgar](https://topostext.org/people/4806), the toparch of Osdroene city. It had an old mud-brick wall. The garrison inside shot arrows down and killed one thousand Persians.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.466**  Running out of arrows, they used slings and again killed many of them. This worried the Persians, so they used different artifices, tunneling through the mud-brick wall of the fortress to reach it from underneath. Those in the fortress realized the tunneling being done by the barbarians. They came down from the walls and killed the Persians underground with swords. When the Persians realized this, while the Roman soldiers were busy in the tunnels, they took ladders and approached the wall at night. They entered and captured the fortress and killed everyone. Some who were able to escape reported the events, and the Persians set out from there and returned to Persian territory.
When Constantiolus learned what happened from the Magister and the rest of the exarchs, he set out for Byzantium, and reported the events to the King. Having heard from Constantiolus the facts concerning the war, he replaced [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) as stratelates. Promoting [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180), he made him stratelates of the East. In June, while the Roman stratelateis were preparing against the Persians, [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248) the kinglet of the [Saracens](https://topostext.org/people/11026) wrote to the Romans through [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338), a deacon, to send someone to him so through him he could convey a peace treaty to the King of the Romans. [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) was sent to the King of the Romans with the letters sent by [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248).

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.467**  The King read the letters, but did not stop mobilizing against the Persians. He sent [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) as ambassador to Persia, writing to him: “[Love](https://topostext.org/people/38) friendship. For it is honor and glory to make the two states exist in peace. If you does not do this, I will seize the Persian land for myself.”
At this time, [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) the deacon was sent to King [Alamoundaras](https://topostext.org/people/12248) with royal gifts. At the same time, gifts were sent from the King of the Romans to the king of the Persians. Similarly, the [Augusta](https://topostext.org/people/18120) sent to the Queen of the Persians, who was her sister. [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) and [Strategius](https://topostext.org/people/8340) reached the city of the Edesenes and notified King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226). He put off receiving them, because he had send a force secretly against the Romans.
In this year there was a fire in Antioch. Some candles had been lit in the theater and the wax had dripped on the wood, setting it on fire. Help was gathered, and it was put out.
In this year, [Demosthenes](https://topostext.org/people/10817) was sent to the East carrying no small amount of money to equip each city with grain reserves for a conflict with the Persians. When he reached Antioch, he set out for Osdroene.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.468**  Royal letters were sent to the cities, in order to send into exile those who were not in communion with the holy churches on the pretext that the synod of Chalcedon had been named the synod of the 630. There was a disturbance in Antioch. The demes attacked the Episcopate, throwing stones and shouting insulting remarks. Those in orders in the patriarchate, together with the Count of the East, resisted with stones and arrows, killing many of the rioters. The episode was reported to the King, and he ordered many to be punished.
In this year a report was sent by [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) concerning the conflict of the Romans and Persians. The Persian generals with an army of 6000 had raided, trying to capture Martyropolis. They were camped in the territory of Amida by the [Nymphios](https://topostext.org/people/8037) river. The Romans formed up against the Persians but were not able to turn them back. Battle was joined a second time, and the Romans employed a stratagem of flight, pretending to flee. The Persians ran after, thinking they were pursuing them, and broke up their formations. The Romans turned and cut down 2000 of the Persians, taking one unit and some of their exarchs hostage, capturing some of their unit standards. The rest fled across the [Nymphios](https://topostext.org/people/8037) river, and many were killed in the flows of the river while being pursued. The Romans returned to Martyropolis.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.469**  The Dux of the Romans, with the ktetores, went and plundered the Persian corpses, and they placed their exarchs under guard.
In this time, [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368) the stratelates of Armenia with a Roman military unit set out against the Persians. He got the upper hand and killed Persarmenians and Persians, handing them roughly. He captured many Persian forts, among which was a strong fort on a mountain with only one way up, a path used by the garrison to get water from the river below. The Persian merchants deposited all the goods they were carrying there for safekeeping. Instructed by [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368), they besieged the fortress, guarding the ascent. The Persians within, having run out of food, were persuaded by oaths to surrender. A message was sent by [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368) to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) about the goods found in the fortress. He sent [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius to take charge of the merchandise. Returning, [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) handed it all over.
The Persian exarchs reported the events to their king. A Persian army was sent, and came near Martyropolis.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.470**  They had received an instruction from their king not to return to Persia until they had taken back the fortress. Taking a stand on the site, they stayed there fighting and tunneling and making ladders and setting them up against the wall.. Later they contrived a tall tower from wood, but were unable to profit from it. For besieged inside was a wise man who countered the Persian plots. He constructed a higher tower inside, and when the Persians were fighting from the tower outside, and the Romans from the tower inside, a column was released from a machine and knocked everything down and killed many Persians at the same time. The remaining Persians, when they saw this, lost their morale. Hearing that Sittas the Roman stratelates was coming to assist those in the fortress, the Persians departed, afraid of being encircled. When he heard this, King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) barred his ambassadors from entering Persian until a second message from him, so they remained in Roman territory with the gifts.
The King sent to all the cities laws on behalf of people in court cases, regarding the expenses paid for legal determinations and also regarding the “gift baskets” provided. He enacted that no one could dare take more than the amount specified by him.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.471**  In Antioch this was written up in Greek letters on boards. At this time he also gave a subsidy to the city theater.
On the 8th of September, Persian King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226), after hearing the bad things inflicted on the Persians by the Romans, suddenly was paralyzed on the right side. Summoning his second son Chosdroes, he proclaimed him king and put the crown on his head. Then after being ill for five days King [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) died, age 82 and 3 months. He had been king for 43 years and two months.
When he was proclaimed king of the Persians, Chosdroes announced to the Roman ambassadors through a Persian magisterial that they should enter Persian territory and make a peace treaty between Romans and Persians. The Roman ambassadors were not allowed to enter Persia without a Royal order, so they justified themselves: “We do not dare settle affairs with you in advance.”
Recognizing this, the Persian king wrote a letter and sent it to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643), asking him to permit the Roman ambassadors to come to Persia and make a peace treaty. The king of the Persians wrote a friendly letter and send it through [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) Magister. Receiving this message, the Roman King wrote back: “We do not permit our ambassadors to come to you. Nor have we recognized you as king of the Persians.”

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.472**  At this time, the king of the Persians commanded that the Manichaeans in his state worship as they wished. The Persian [Magi](https://topostext.org/people/12091) were aggrieved at this event. They consulted with senators and plotted to expel him from the kingship and make his brother king instead of him. Learning this, the Persian king decapitated his brother, killed senators and magi, and wrote a letter to the King of the Romans with a three-month suspension of the war. The King of the Romans wrote back to the magister to accept the three-month’s truce and exchange hostages with the Persians. He ordered [Strategius](https://topostext.org/people/8340) and [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354), the ambassadors, to go up to Byzantium.
In that year the Saberes Huns crossed through the Caspian Gates and appeared in Roman territory, despoiling Armenia. They spread out and occupied as far as Euphratesia and Second Cilicia and Kyrrhestike. When the King of the Romans learned this, he sent for the Patrician [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) and commanded him to go to the Eastern regions and find out if the Persian king had sent them against the Romans [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) went and exchanged messages with the king of the Persians, and found that it was not by the Persian king’s advice that the Huns had approached. He wrote to [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368) the stratelates of Armenia to arm against the Huns.

Event Date: 530

**§ 18.473**  Hearing this, the Huns took their plunder and returned through the places they had come from. Stratelates [Dorotheus](https://topostext.org/people/1368) pursued them and took back from this a fair amount of plunder.
In this year, the 10th of the Indiction, by the influence of some avenging daemons, tumult occurred in Byzantium. Eudaimonos was the City Eparch. He was holding troublemakers in prison from both of the factions. As he questioned various persons he learned the names of four men responsible for murder. The sentence for four of them was beheading, and for three impaling. While they were being paraded through the whole city, two of those who were hanging fell down when the wood broke, one a Blue and the other a Green. Seeing this, the people standing around acclaimed the king. The nearby monks of St. [Konon](https://topostext.org/people/164)’s heard the sound, came out, and found the two hanged men still alive on the ground. They took them down to the sea, put them in a boat, and sent them to St. [Laurentius](https://topostext.org/people/7863), a place of asylum. Learning this, the City Eparch sent a military detachment to guard them there.

Event Date: 532

**§ 18.474**  After three days, the hippodrome competition called “Of the Ides [or Kinds]” was held. They are called “Ides” because the King of the Romans feeds lunch in his palace to all those who have excelled in military campaigns, granting to each the insignia of high precedence. When the races were taking places on the 13th of January, both sides asked the king to be merciful. They kept on shouting until the 22nd palm-branch, and they were not considered worthy of a reply. The devil put in their minds a wicked thought, and they shouted to each other, “Many Years to the Philanthropic Greens and Blues.” When the races ended, the crowd went out embracing/reconciling. They gave each other the watchword “Nika” so as not to be confused with the soldiers or excubitores, and marched on. When the evening hour arrived, they came to the Praetorium of the City Eparch, and demanded an answer regarding the refugees in St. [Laurentius](https://topostext.org/people/7863). Not receiving an answer, they set fire to the Praetorium. It burned, along with the Chalke of the palace as far as the Guard Barracks, the Great Church, and the Public Portico. The Demos kept at it, surging ahead in a disorderly way. When morning came, the King ordered the [horse race](https://topostext.org/people/16902)s to be conducted, and the customary Veil was hung up. The demesmen lit fires in the stairways of the Hippodrome, and part was burned, also part of the public portico as far as the Zeuxippon.

Event Date: 532

**§ 18.475**  [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180), Constantiolus, and [Basilides](https://topostext.org/people/5500) moved in with their escorts, at the King’s command, wanting to quiet the rioting mob. The crowd was shouting against [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the Cappadocian and Tribunianus the Quaestor and the City Eparch Eudaimon. Hearing this, the senators who had been sent out reported to the King. Immediately [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053), Tribunianus, and Eudaimon were relieved of their positions. [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) went out with a Gothic host, and battle was joined. Many demesmen were killed. Furious, the crowd set fires in other places and killed people randomly. On the 18th of the month, the King went into the Hippodrome carrying the Holy Greatness [Gospels?]. Learning this, the crowd went up, and he addressed them, commands with oaths. Many of the Demos shouted that he was king, but others were in revolt, and shouted for [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562). The demes took [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) and brought him to the Forum of Constantine. They stood him high on the steps. Taking insignia and a gold necklace from the Palace, they put it around his head. They then took him to the Hippodrome, planning to put him in the Royal Seat. The crowd hastened to dress him in royal garb from the palace. [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) had learned that the king had departed. Sitting in the Seat he boldly acted as usurper.

Event Date: 532

**§ 18.476**  While [Mundus](https://topostext.org/people/12180) and Constantiolus and [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) and other senators with an armed escort were going up toward the Seat from behind, [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius and spatharius stealthily went and beguiled some of Blue faction, handing them money. So some of the insurgents from the crowd shouted “[Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) King for the City.” The crowd fell into disunity and began attacking one another. The stratelateis entered with their forces into the Hippodrome from both entrances and began cutting down the crowd. Some shot arrows, some cut throats. Entering secretly, [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) grabbed [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) and [Pompeius](https://topostext.org/people/151) and took them to King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643). They fell at the King’s feet and made their excuses, saying, “Master, it would have been a lot of trouble for you to gather the enemies of your state in the Hippodrome.” The King answered them, “You have done well, but if they were ready to obey you as rulers, why didn’t you do this before the whole city burned up?” The spatharii took [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) and [Pompeius](https://topostext.org/people/151) from the King and locked them up. Those massacred in the Hippodrome were 35 thousand plus or minus a few. The next day, [Hypatius](https://topostext.org/people/4562) and [Pompeius](https://topostext.org/people/151) were killed and their bodies thrown in the sea. The King marked his victory and the death of the usurpers in all the cities, and ordered that the burned areas be rebuilt.

Event Date: 532

**§ 18.477**  He built a horreum and water cisterns near the Palace so as to have a reserve for such circumstances.
In this year, [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) went out to Persian territory with royal memoranda for making a peace treaty with the Persians.
In this year, an ambassador of the Indians was sent with gifts to Constantinople. In this time, [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the Cappadocian became Eparch of the Praetorians.
And in this year there was a great race of [shooting] stars from evening until dawn, astounding everyone to the point of saying, “We never saw any such thing.”
In the same year, [Hermogenes](https://topostext.org/people/970) and [Rufinus](https://topostext.org/people/1354) returned from Persia carrying a peace treaty between the Roman and Persian states for the lifetime of both. The area of Pharangion was given back to the Persians with all the captives, while to the Romans were restored the fortresses captured by the Persians with those caught in them. The two kings agreed to call each other “brothers” in keeping with the ancient custom, and if either should lack money or men, the other would supply without argument.

Event Date: 532

**§ 18.478**  With this established, both armies withdrew, the Roman and the Persian, after the war had lasted 31 years from when [Koades](https://topostext.org/people/12226) the Persian king had entered Roman territory, as written above in the reign of king [Anastasius](https://topostext.org/people/15101), and the capture of Amida, as written above, and the restoration of Amida by the Romans, along with the partial wars of the [Saracen](https://topostext.org/people/11026) raids.
In this year there was an earthquake in Byzantium, late in the evening, causing the whole city to gather in the Forum of Constantine, uniting in prayers, supplications, and vigils.
In those days King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) sent royal edicts to each city with the following content: “Edict concerning the Orthodox faith and against impious heretics.” It was posted up in each city in the churches. No much time after, a fearful earthquake happened in Antioch the Great, but harmless.
In that year the King entered his third consulship. He recalled the patricians [Olybrius](https://topostext.org/people/5846) and [Probus](https://topostext.org/people/879) from exile, and restored all their property to them.

Event Date: 533

**§ 18.479**  In the 12th of the Indiction [533/4 CE], the Rex of Africa was captured by [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) with his wife and brought to Constantinople. When the [horse-race](https://topostext.org/people/16902)s were held, the captives were brought in with the spoils. In the same year, the statue of [Julian](https://topostext.org/people/158) the Transgressor, which stood in the middle of the [Julian](https://topostext.org/people/158) harbor, fell down. A cross was inserted instead of the statue.
In the year after the consulship of [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) [536 CE], there was a synod in Constantinople under the Bishop of Rome, Agapetos. He removed [Anthemius](https://topostext.org/people/10775), the Patriarch of Constantinople. In that year, the Bishop of Rome died in Byzantium. [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) became Patriarch of Constantinople, who had been in charge of the hospice of Sampson.
In the consulship of [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the Cappadocian [538 CE] the churches of the Areians were taken away.
In this year, the Chalke of the palace of Constantinople was completed, adorned with various marbles and mosaic. The Horologeion near the Augustion and the basilica was moved. The office of Night Eparch was abolished, and the was a praetor instead. A Quaestor was promoted in this year.
In this consulship took place the inauguration of the Great Church.

Event Date: 534

**§ 18.480**  In June, the 3rd of the Indiction [540 CE], Antioch the Great was captured by [Chosroes](https://topostext.org/people/6353), the king of the Persians. Germanos was appointed stratelates and sent to do battle, along with his son [Justin](https://topostext.org/people/2001). Having accomplished nothing, he sat in Antioch, buying the silver of the coins for two or three per litra from the Antiochenes.
The king of the Persians also entered Apameia and other cities of the East.
In this year, [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) was sent to Rome. By fighting, he took back Rome and Sicily and the surrounding cities held by [Vitiges](https://topostext.org/people/12051), Rex of the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095). After fighting, he captured [Vitiges](https://topostext.org/people/12051) and his wife and son and brought them to Byzantium.
After a short time, the King sent [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius with a large army to Rome against the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095).
In August, [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the Cappadocian was sacked, after twice serving as eparch. His property was confiscated and he was sent to Cyzicus and ordained deacon in Artake. There, having formed a faction with some ktetores, he killed [Eusebius](https://topostext.org/people/1157) the bishop of the Cyzicenes. When the King learned this, he was angry at [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) and sent for him to be examined for the murder. By command of the King, he was exiled from there to Antinou [polis?]. After some time he was recalled to Byzantium, where he died.

Event Date: 540

**§ 18.481**  In the 5th of the Indiction such a thing happened: a woman who lived near the Golden Gate was hung up one night, and talked a great deal, so that the crowds in Constantinople came running, and they went away singing hymns to the church of St. [Diomedes](https://topostext.org/people/124) of Jerusalem, and they brought down the woman from her house and took her to the church of St. [Diomedes](https://topostext.org/people/124). She said that after three days the sea would rise and take everything. All were singing hymns and shouting ‘Lord have mercy.’ It was rumored that many cities had been swallowed up. At that time in Egypt and Alexandria a plague was occurring. The King sent [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius with light, fast boats and some others to learn what was happening. The children of [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) went as his emissary to St. [Diomedes](https://topostext.org/people/124). They learned from the assembled crowd what the woman had said. They came and reported to [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) what was happening in the church, and that they heard from the hanged woman that after three days the sea would rise and drown everything. The crowd heard what she said and went away distraught.

Event Date: 542

**§ 18.482**  In that year, [Longinus](https://topostext.org/people/1477) was appointed City Eparch. He paved the mid-channel of the royal cistern. He built the porticos of the basilica magnificently.
The Lord God saw that human illegalities had proliferated, and, to blot them out, introduced a plague upon the earth in all the cities and countries. The mortality lasted a year, so there were not enough gravediggers. Some carried the dead from their houses in wooden beds, and not even those sufficed. Some of the shrouded bodies waited unburied for days. Some relatives did not see the burial. The bountiful mercy of God lasted two months in Byzantium.
In September, 6th of the Indiction [542], there was an earthquake in Cyzicus and half the city collapsed.
In this time there was a shortage of wine.
In November there was a divergence of opinion regarding abstention from meat. The King ordered meet to be sold for another week. All the meat-sellers butchered and displayed, but no one ate. Then the Passion of [Christ](https://topostext.org/people/111) our God happened as the King wished.

Event Date: 542

**§ 18.483**  In February, 10th of the Indiction [547 CE], the Bishop of Rome Vigilius came to Constantinople. In that year, Rome was taken by the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095).
In this year, [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) the Patriarch of Constantinople was removed by the pope of Rome for some canonical reasons.
In the same Indiction, when the Genethlia were being held in Byzantium, with [Thomas](https://topostext.org/people/6014) the City Eparch, anti-social behavior [? - ἀμιξία] occurred in both factions. Watching the event, the King commanded the excubitores, and they intervened against the crowd. Those who fled were drowned, and the others were massacred.
In the same Indiction, [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) the archbishop of Constantinople was restored to his see. He went to the athlesis of the Holy Apostles in the Circuit Wall.
In that year the Count Praetor surnamed Dipoundaristos publicly examined the two men who had been implicated in the murder of the bishop of Cyzicus, [Andreas](https://topostext.org/people/2091) and [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) Dandax. After the investigation, their right hands were cut off. In that year there were continual earthquakes.

Event Date: 547

**§ 18.484**  In June of the same Indiction there were fearsome rainstorms and lightning, that that people were injured by lightning while they slept. In the same incidents, part of the column on the Xerolophos (Dry Hill) was knocked down.
On the 28th of June, 10th of the Indiction [547 CE], the [Augusta](https://topostext.org/people/18120) [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976) died.
In July after a battle between the factions, fire was set in the building called of Pardos (Panther). Much was burned and many were murdered.
In the 13th of the Indiction [549/50 CE] an ambassador of the Indians was sent to Constantinople with an elephant.
And in that year the names of Archbishop [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) and Vigilius Pope of Rome were removed from the diptychs.
In April there was a clash of the demes in the Hippodrome, though no [horse-race](https://topostext.org/people/16902)s were being held, and many died on both sides.
On June 28, the same Indiction, the inauguration took place of the church of the Holy Apostles and the deposition of the honorable relics of Sts. Andrew, [Luke](https://topostext.org/people/6626), and Timothy in Constantinople. Bishop [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) came with the holy relics seated in the royal carriage.

Event Date: 550

**§ 18.485**  In this year, [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius was sent to Rome to fight the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095), because after Belissarius had captured Rome, the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095) had taken it back.
On June 26 of the same Indiction, the Bishop of Rome Vigilius was received by the King. For he had been in disfavor, and had taken refuge in St. Sergius in the palace of [Hormisdas](https://topostext.org/people/7776).
In the 14th of the Indiction there was a large, fearsome earthquake [551 CE July 9] in the whole land of Palestine, in Arabia, and in the territory of [Mesopotamia](https://topostext.org/people/290), Antioch, and both Coastal Phoenicia and Lebanesia. In this catastrophe, the following cities suffered: Tyre, Sidon, Berytos, Tripolis, Byblos, Botrys, and parts of other cities. Multitudes of people were trapped in them. In Botrys, part of the mountain called Lithoprosopon (Stone-Face), which rose beside the sea, broke off, fell into the sea, and formed a harbor, so that even very large ships could sail into the harbor of the broken-off mountain. This city had not had a harbor in the past. The King sent money to all the provinces and rebuilt conspicuous parts of the cities. At the time of the earthquake, the waters withdrew a mile toward the open sea, and many ships were destroyed. By God’s command the sea was restored to its ancient bed.

Event Date: 551

**§ 18.486**  In September, 15th of the Indiction [14th?], the inauguration took place of Hagia [Eirene](https://topostext.org/people/3825) across in Justinianai. The Holy Relics went out of the Great Church with the two patriarchs, I mean [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) the Patriarch of Constantinople and [Apollinarius](https://topostext.org/people/943) the Pope of Alexandria. Both sat in the Royal carriage, holding the Honorable Relics on their knees.
In this time, the harbor near the palace of the Secundiani was pumped out and cleaned.
In August, 15th of the Indiction, [Menas](https://topostext.org/people/1593) the Archbishop of Constantinople died. With his remains lying in the holy chapel of the Great Church, Eutychius, the Secretary of Amaseia, became patriarch.
In the same month, victory offerings came from Rome sent by [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the cubicularius and Exarch of the Romans. He had fought with [Totila](https://topostext.org/people/12113), the Rex of the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095), defeated him, and killed him. His bloody robes were sent to Constantinople.
In March, 1st of the Indiction, there was a debasing of the coinage. The poor started rioting, and the noise reached the King. He ordered the coinage to be maintained according to the ancient custom.

Event Date: 552

**§ 18.487**  In August, 2nd of the Indiction [554 CE], there was a fearsome earthquake in Byzantium that damaged many houses and baths and churches and parts of the city walls. In the calamity, the lance held by the statue in the Forum of Constantine fell and plunged three palm widths in the earth. Many were caught in the fallen wreckage. Other cities also suffered: part of Nikomedeia fell. Survivors were being drawn from the wreckage of Nikomedeia even after several days. The quaking lasted 40 days.
In July, 4th of the Indiction [555 CE], the Samaritans and [Jews](https://topostext.org/people/179) revolted in Caesarea of Palestine. Uniting in a single faction, they attacked the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455) of the city and massacred many of them. They attacked and pillaged the churches. When the city [Archon](https://topostext.org/people/1126) emerged to help the [Christians](https://topostext.org/people/455), the Samaritans attacked and killed him in the Praetorium, and grabbed his possession. The wife of [Stephanos](https://topostext.org/people/309) the [Archon](https://topostext.org/people/1126) went to Constantinople and approached the King. When the King heard what the Samaritans had done, he became angry. He ordered Amantius, who was then the [Archon](https://topostext.org/people/1126) of the East, to investigate the events and the murder of [Stephanos](https://topostext.org/people/309). This Amantius received the royal correspondence and went to Caesarea. There he investigated those who had carried out the murders.

Event Date: 555

**§ 18.488**  Discovering them, he hanged some of them, decapitated some, cut off the right hand of others, and confiscated some. There was great fear in the city of Caesarea and the Eastern parts.
In December, the same Indiction, there was a fatal epidemic in various cities.
In May of the same Indiction, there was a bread shortage in Constantinople, and people were reduced to short rations. At the Genethlia, when the King was watching the games together with the Persian ambassador, they shouted against the King. The King was angry, and gave an order to [Musonius](https://topostext.org/people/14912) the City Eparch. Some of the notables of the Blue faction were arrested and punished. The bread shortage lasted three months. After a few days there was fearsome thunder and lightning in various cities, with many harmed.
In November, 5th of the Indiction, fire appeared in the sky, like a spear stretching from east to west.
In April, the same Indiction [556 CE], there was a fearsome earthquake, but harmless.
In December, 6th of the Indiction [557 CE], there was a very fearsome earthquake in the middle of the night, so that the two city walls of Constantinople suffered damage,

Event Date: 557

**§ 18.489**  the one made by [Constantine](https://topostext.org/people/12990) and that built by [Theodosius](https://topostext.org/people/715), and parts of churches collapsed, especially the buildings on the far side of the Seventh Ward. The column in Secundianae came down with its statue. Many things collapsed in [Regio](https://topostext.org/people/8238). Many died in the wreckage. Some of those trapped by the falling debris were rescued days afterwards. In this calamity, many places collapsed in the surrounding cities. The fearful threat lasted for ten days. For a short while, people were stunned, but they endured with litanies and supplications in the churches. King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) did not wear his crown for thirty days.
In this year a strange nation of the Huns, called [Avars](https://topostext.org/people/5492), invaded Constantinople.
During these days, the bishop of Kaisareia in Cappadocia died in Byzantium. [Theocritus](https://topostext.org/people/759) replaced him.
In February, 6th of the Indiction [558 CE], there was a glandular plague in Constantinople. In this calamity all the [corrupt text] methodia made silver beds/coffins[?]. This fearful threat from God lasted six months.
In this year the dome of the Great Church was being repaired, for it had cracked in evident places from the various calamities of God’s philanthropy.

Event Date: 558

**§ 18.490**  Suddenly, while the Isaurians were working, the eastern part of of the front support collapsed, and it crushed the ciborium with the Holy Table. The remaining part of it was taken down, and these vaults were rebuilt, raising the dome by 20 feet.
In March, 7th of the Indiction [559 CE], the Huns and Slavs in Thrace staged an uprising. They killed many in battle and despoiled some. They despoiled and took prisoner the stratelates [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) the son of [Bacchus](https://topostext.org/people/5) and Edermas the elder son of Kalopodius. They found the walls of Constantinople fallen down in places. Entering there, they raced in as far as St. Stratonikes […]
the Orthodox faith.
In May, Zemarchos, one of the Exarchs and the Curator of the royal house of Placidia, was replaced by [Theodorus](https://topostext.org/people/14736) the Nikomedian.
In that month, the Genethlia were not celebrated in the customary way, but were held on the 13th of the month. After the [horse](https://topostext.org/people/10959)-racing ended, when the Greens were leaving, and going down the colonnade of Moschianos under guard, suddenly the Greens were violently insulted by some men in the house of Appion, and members of the Blue faction attacked the Greens. Battles took place in various places, and the Blues crossed from Sykai and began to burn down the warehouses by the sea.

Event Date: 559

**§ 18.491**  Members of the Blue faction shot arrows at anyone who tried to put out the fires. For they had various income from the workshop owners. When an attempt was made to stop the conflict, they burned the so-called House of Andreos in the shipyard. They fought as well in the Mese, and there they set fire to the house of Barsymius, where the offices of the Exarchs were at that time. The fire burned as far as the Bronze Tetrapylon and the colonnade opposite. The battle lasted two days. Then [Marinos](https://topostext.org/people/1842) the Count of the Excubitores went out with a large military escort and Justinus the most glorious Curopalates, and with difficulty they were able to make both factions stop.
In this year, when Gerontius was the City Eparch, many incidents of arson occurred in various parts of Constantinople. Mass detentions took place from both factions. Many were punished, and some were decapitated. The detention lasted 70 days.
In June of the same Indiction, Hellenes (pagans) were arrested and their books burned in the Kynegion, along with images and statues of their detestable gods.
In this month there was a synod held by the Pope of Rome.
Also in this month there was civic violence in Cyzicus, with the result that many died from both factions, and some buildings were destroyed.

Event Date: 559

**§ 18.492**  In August, 10th of the Indiction [562 CE], the inauguration took place of the church of the holy Martyr [Theodora](https://topostext.org/people/3976) near the bridge. At the King’s command, there was a gala by the money-changers, with very many lights.
In October, 11th of the Indiction, there was a split in the Blues in Byzantium. They fought a battle in the Pittakia with swords drawn, and Klerikos, the son of [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) Komentarisios called Gylos, had his hand cut off.
In November there was a lack of rainfall in Constantinople, and many battles took place at the fountains. There were many north winds. Indeed, since the beginning of August the south wind did not blow, and the third fleet of ships could not enter. In response, Eutychius the Patriarch had litanies performed in Jerusalem.
In this month, victory offerings arrived from [Narses](https://topostext.org/people/12008) the patrician in Rome, since he had captured fortified cities from the [Goths](https://topostext.org/people/1095), Beroea and Brinka. He sent the key of these cities along with the spoils.

Event Date: 562

**§ 18.493**  In November, 11th of the Indiction [563 CE], some persons plotted harm against King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643), to murder him while he was sitting in the Palace in the evening. Those who were considering the plot were the following: [Ablabius](https://topostext.org/people/7144) son of Meltiades, [Marcellus](https://topostext.org/people/71) the moneychanger, [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) the cousin of Aetherius the Curator. Their plan was this, that as he was sitting in the triclinium in the evening, they would enter and stab the king. They would have their own people placed to stage a diversion while the attack took place. [Ablabius](https://topostext.org/people/7144) would take gold from [Marcellus](https://topostext.org/people/71), about fifty gold litra, to buy support. By God’s good will, one of the plotters, [Ablabius](https://topostext.org/people/7144) the son of Meltiades, was rash enough to tell their intent to [Eusebius](https://topostext.org/people/1157), the Count of the Foederati, and [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) the son of Dometiolus, “In the evening we want to attack the pious King while he sits in the triclinium.” When the plot was revealed, [Marcellus](https://topostext.org/people/71) the moneychanger was found on the evening planned for the attack, entering the palace with a dagger, while [Ablabius](https://topostext.org/people/7144), who had revealed the plot, carried a sword. Since they had been identified in advance, [Marcellus](https://topostext.org/people/71) was arrested. Thwarted in his plan, he drew his dagger and stabbed himself three times. Thus he died.

Event Date: 563

**§ 18.494**  [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) the cousin of Aetherius took refuge in Our Lady the Theotokos church in Blachernai. He was expelled outside the sacred boundary, on the grounds of have plotted against the King, and was questioned. He testified that Isakios the money-changer for the patrician [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) knew the plot, and Vitus the money-changer and [Paulus](https://topostext.org/people/200), the one incriminating [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894). Both were arrested and handed over to [Procopius](https://topostext.org/people/852), the city eparch. Constantinus the quaestor and [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732) the clerk and [Zenodorus](https://topostext.org/people/2800) the private secretary, were convoked as coinvestigators and to write down their answers. They denounced [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) the patrician, who consequently came under suspicion. Some others of those named managed to flee. On the fifth of December, the King made a silentium conventum and ordered all the Archons to attend, and Patriarch Eutychius and some from the Guard barracks. He received them in the triclinium and ordered that the depositions be read, to reveal the plot to everyone, I mean, of [Sergius](https://topostext.org/people/1338) the cousin of Aetherius, [Eusebius](https://topostext.org/people/1157) the moneychanger, [Paulus](https://topostext.org/people/200) the Hypoptio, and Vitus. Their depositions were read, and from them the patrician [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) fell under suspicion. The King sent and took all [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894)’s men, and the man in no way resisted.

Event Date: 563

**§ 18.495**  Constantinus the quaestor and [Julianus](https://topostext.org/people/732) the clerk fell under suspicion as, they say, having acted in support of Aetherius, who was himself possibly aware of the plot. After six days, the plotters were examined again by [Marinus](https://topostext.org/people/1842), the Count of the Excubitores and [Constantianus](https://topostext.org/people/136) the stratelates, and [Belisarius](https://topostext.org/people/4894) remained under suspicion
In this month, an edict was promulgated by the King regarding the differing interpretations in different churches, that “After the union one must not say one nature, but confess two natures.”
In the same Indiction occurred the inauguration of the most holy Great Church, a second time. Thirty feet were added to the dome compared to the old plan, and they made two arches as an add-on, north and south. On completion of the vaulting, while Eutychius the Patriarch held the holy Gospel and the crowd stood by, the psalm [23/24] was sung, “Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up, you everlasting doors! The King of glory shall come in,” et cetera.
In January, 11th of the Indiction [563 CE], when the horseraces were being held, Julianicus the charioteer died in the Hippodrome after being dragged.
And in the same month part of Africa was taken by the Mauritanians. Koutzinos the Exarch of this nation was accustomed to receive from the ruler of the Romans a certain sum of gold, because he ruled the Moors.

Event Date: 563

**§ 18.496**  And when [Ioannes](https://topostext.org/people/5053) surnamed Rogathinos came and gave him nothing in accordance with the former custom, but instead murdered him, the children of Koutzinos rose up to avenge their father's blood. They rose up in parts of Africa, and took some places, murdering and plundering. King [Justinian](https://topostext.org/people/14643) sent [Marcian](https://topostext.org/people/3042) his nephew...

Event Date: 563