

Rulers of Egypt – comparison to Manetho’s king list

@ Riaan Booysen (www.riiaanbooyesen.com)

The Egyptian chronology of the 18th and early 19th Dynasties can be summarized as follows [Gahlin ,Egypt, Gods, Myths and Religion]:

Eighteenth Dynasty

Ruler	Date (BCE)	Reign (Years)	Notes
Ahmose	1550-1525	25	Expelled the Hyksos
Amenhotep I	1525-1504	21	
Tuthmosis I	1504-1492	12	Also known as Tuthmose
Tuthmosis II	1492-1479	13	
Tuthmosis III	1479-1425	54	Sole ruler 1458-1425 (33 years)
Hatshepsut	1473-1458	15	Half-sister of Tuthmosis II Co-ruled with Tuthmosis III (21 years)
Amenhotep II	1425-1400	25	
Tuthmosis IV	1400-1390	10	
Amenhotep III	1390-1352	38	Ruled into beginning of Amarna era
Amenhotep IV	1352-1336	16	Also known as Akhenaten
Nefernefruaten	1338-1336	2	Smenkhkare
Tutankhamun	1336-1327	9	
Ay	1327-1323	4	Last of the Amarna kings
Horemheb	1323-1295	28	

Nineteenth Dynasty

Ruler	Date (BCE)	Reign	Notes
Ramesses I	1295-1294	1	
Seti I	1294-1279	15	Other sources have 11 years
Ramesses II	1279-1213	66	
Merenptah	1213-1203	10	

TABLE I Conventional Egyptian King List

Manetho’s king list [Josephus, Against Apion I.15 (85- 102)], which was among other sources used to draw up the Egyptian chronology listed above, is as follows:

Name	Reign	Notes
Alisphragmuthosis		Subdued the Hyksos, who retreated to Avaris
Thummosis	25	Besieged Avaris, Hyksos 'left Egypt' Also called Tethmosis [AA I.15(94)]
Chebron	13	Son of Tethmosis
Amenophis	21	Amenhotep I?
Amesses	22	Sister of Amenophis Hatshepsut, half-sister of Tuthmosis II?
Mephres	12	
Mephramuthosis	26	
Tethmosis	10	Thumosis IV, father of Amenhotep III
Amenophis	31	
Orus	36	Amenhotep III? Reigned for 38 years Also known as Bocchoris [AA I.34 (305)], the Pharaoh of the Exodus, also called Amenophis [AA I.26(232)] 'Amenophis ... as had Orus...', i.e. Orus linked to Amenophis Name possibly derived from Latin <i>auris</i> , '(He who) <i>listened</i> (to the advice of the oracle)'
Acenchres	12	Daughter of Orus (Nefertiti co-reigned with Akhenaten)
Rathotis	9	Brother of the female Acenchres (Tutankhamun?)
Acencheres	12	12 years and 5 months Akhenaten, 'those fatefully determined 13 years'?
Acencheres	12	Again Achenchres = Smenkhare?
Armais	4	Also called Danaus [AA I.15 (102)], Hermeus [AA I.26 (231)] and Ramesses [AA I.15 (98)]
Ramesses	1	Ramesses I?
Armesses Miammoun	66	Horemheb? May have been as old as Ay (Armais)
Amenophis	19	
Sethosis	59	Co-ruled (?) with his brother Ramesses (Armais), and was also known as Egyptus (Aegyptus)[AA I.15 (102)] 59-year-reign [AA I.26 (231)] Killed his brother Ramesses [AA I.15 (98)] Cast his brother Hermeus out of Egypt [AA I.26 (231)] Also known as Sesostris [Maier's index]
Rhampses	66	Appears to be confused with Orus/Amenhotep III Son of Sethos [AA I.26 (231)] - Ramesses II?

TABLE II Manetho's King List

A careful study of the numbers of years of reign and identification of some key rulers reveals that Manetho's chronology is in general fairly accurate, but here and there it appears to be mixed up with respect to the accepted chronology. Rearranging the above list, we obtain a better chronological order for Manetho's kings:

Pharaoh	Reign	Years	Manetho's ruler	Years
Ahmose	1550-1525	25	Thummosis/Tethmosis	25
Amenhotep I	1525-1504	21	Amenophis	21
Tuthmosis I	1504-1492	12	Chebron	13
Tuthmosis II	1492-1479	13	Mephres	12
Hatshepsut	1479-1458	21	Amesses (N1)	22
Tuthmosis III	1458-1425	31	Mephramuthosis	26
Amenhotep II	1425-1400	27	Amenophis	31
Tuthmosis IV	1400-1390	10	Tethmosis	10
Amenhotep III	1390-1352	38	Orus (Amenophis)	36
Akhenaten	1352-1336	16	Achenceres	12
Smenkhkare	1338-1336	2	Achencres (Nefertiti, N2)	2
Tutankhamun	1336-1327	9	Rathotis (N3)	9
Ay	1327-1323	4	Armais	4
Horemheb	1323-1295	28	Armesses Miammoun (N4)	28
Ramesses I	1295-1294	1	Ramesses	1
Seti I	1294-1279	15	Amenophis / Sethosis (N5)	19
Ramesses II	1279-1213	66	Rhampses	66

TABLE III Manetho's kings rearranged to match the conventional chronology

Notes to Table III

N1 - Even though the rule of Tuthmosis III is generally assumed to have started in 1479 BCE, Hatshepsut ruled Egypt while the former was young and he only became sole ruler after her death in 1458 BCE.

N2 - Manetho lists one female ruler by the name of Achenchres and two male rulers with identical names, Achencheres. All three ruled for more or less 12 years. There can be little doubt that the female ruler must have been Nefertiti, who is believed by many scholars to have been Akhenaten's co-regent. Assuming that she co-ruled with Akhenaten for 10 years and a further 2 years after his death, the number of years of Achencres was reduced to 2. She disappeared from the Amarna scene in year 12 of Akhenaten's reign and must then have assumed the title of Smenkhkare, probably upon the death of Akhenaten. Most of the records of the Amarna era were destroyed by Horemheb and it seems that Manetho only knew that there were two rulers of that name along with a female ruler of more or less the same name. He therefore seems to have listed all three instead of only

two. Nefertiti was the daughter-in-law of Amenhotep III and therefore the 'daughter' of Orus (see Notes in Table II).

- N3 - Tutankamun is speculated to have been fathered by Amenhotep III. Nefertiti was the daughter-in-law of Amenhotep III, implying that Rathotis would then indeed have been her brother-in-law (see Notes in Table II).
- N4 - Manetho's list omits a Horemheb equivalent and jumps directly to a Ramesses who ruled for 1 year. This matches the reign of Ramesses I, but the remainder of the list contains some obvious duplications. Armesses Miammoun is supposed to have ruled for 66 years, but the only ruler who reigned for such an extended period of time was Ramesses II. The latter was preceded by Seti I, who ruled for 15 years, but Manetho associates Sethosis with Amenhotep III / Aegyptus, the greatest of all Egyptian rulers. It is possible that Horemheb may have been in the service of the Amarna royals for decades, and that he may have been as old as Ay himself. That may account for the extended reign of 66 years attributed to him. In Table III Armesses Miammoun is therefore associated with Horemheb and the number of years of his reign was changed accordingly.
- N5 - The duration of the reign of Manetho's Amenophis corresponds more or less with that of Seti I and the fact that this Amenophis is succeeded by Sethosis and then Ramesses II suggests that Manetho somehow became confused by both Amehotep III and Seti I having been known as Sethosis.