

= Theodosius (son of Maurice) =

Theodosius (Greek : ????????? ; August 4 , 583 / 585 ? after November 27 , 602) was the eldest son of Byzantine Emperor Maurice (r . 582 ? 602) and was co @-@ emperor from 590 until his deposition and execution during a military revolt in November 602 . Along with his father @-@ in @-@ law Germanus , he was briefly proposed as successor to Maurice by the troops , but the army eventually favoured Phocas instead . Sent in an abortive mission to secure aid from Sassanid Persia by his father , Theodosius was captured and executed by Phocas 's supporters a few days after Maurice . Nevertheless , rumours spread that he had survived the execution , and became popular to the extent that a man who purported to be Theodosius was entertained by the Persians as a pretext for launching a war against Byzantium .

= = Biography = =

Theodosius was the first child of Maurice and his wife , the Augusta Constantina . He was born on August 4 , 583 (according to the contemporary John of Ephesus and other chroniclers) or 585 (according to the later histories of Theophanes the Confessor and Kedrenos) . He was the first son to be born to a reigning emperor since Theodosius II in 401 , and was accordingly named after the previous ruler . The papal envoy , or apocrisiarius , to Constantinople , the future Pope Gregory the Great , acted as his godfather . The scholar Evagrius Scholasticus composed a work celebrating Theodosius ' birth , for which he was rewarded by Maurice with the rank of consul .

A few years after his birth , possibly in 587 , Theodosius was raised to the rank of Caesar and thus became his father 's heir @-@ apparent , while on March 26 , 590 , he was publicly proclaimed as co @-@ emperor .

In November 601 or early February 602 , Maurice married Theodosius to a daughter of the patrician Germanus , a leading member of the Byzantine Senate . The historian Theophylact Simocatta , the major chronicler of Maurice 's reign , also records that on February 2 , 602 , Germanus saved Theodosius from harm during food riots in Constantinople .

Later in the same year , during the revolt of the Danubian armies in autumn , Theodosius and his father @-@ in @-@ law were hunting in the outskirts of Constantinople . There they received a letter from the mutinous troops , in which they demanded Maurice 's resignation , a redress of their grievances , and offered the crown to either of the two . They presented the letter to Maurice , who rejected the army 's demands . The emperor however began suspecting Germanus of playing a part in the revolt . Theodosius promptly informed his father @-@ in @-@ law of this and advised him to hide , and on 21 November Germanus fled first to a local church and then to the Hagia Sophia , seeking sanctuary from the Byzantine emperor 's emissaries .

On the very next day however , Maurice and his family and closest associates fled the capital before the advancing rebel army under Phocas , and crossed over to Chalcedon . From there , Theodosius was dispatched along with the praetorian prefect Constantine Lardys to seek the aid of Khosrau II , the ruler of Sassanid Persia . Maurice however soon recalled him , and on his return Theodosius fell into the hands of Phocas ' men and was executed at Chalcedon . His father and younger brothers had been executed a few days earlier on November 27 .

= = = Rumours of survival and pseudo @-@ Theodosius = = =

Subsequently , rumours emerged of Theodosius 's survival and spread far and wide . It was alleged that his father @-@ in @-@ law Germanus had bribed his executioner , a leading Phocas supporter named Alexander , to spare his life . In this story , Theodosius then fled , eventually reaching Lazica , where he died . Theophylact Simocatta reports that he thoroughly investigated these rumours and found them false .

However , the general Narses , who rose against Phocas in Mesopotamia , exploited these rumours : he produced a false Theodosius , and claimed to be fighting in his name . The imposter was then presented to Khosrau II by Narses . The Persian ruler in turn used him as a pretext for his own

invasion of Byzantium , claiming that it was done in order to avenge the murder of Maurice and his family and place the " rightful " heir Theodosius on the throne .

= = = Coinage = = =

Theodosius does not appear on most of the regular coinage of Maurice 's reign , with two exceptions : the copper nummi of the Cherson mint , which show him along with his father and mother , and a special silver siliqua issue (apparently cut in 591 / 592 to celebrate his proclamation as co @-@ emperor) from the Carthage mint .