CONTENTS

	General introduction	page vii
	Acknowledgements	viii
	Abbreviations	viii
	Foreword	ix
1 Introduction		
1.1	The textual sources	1
	The religious background to Zoroastrianism	8
	Zarathushtra and his teachings	11
1.4	Some reasons for diversity in modern studies of Zoroastrianism	15
	The ancient Iranian world picture	17
	The seven holy days of obligation	18
	The Zoroastrian calendar	19
	The Zoroastrian 'world year'	20
1.9	Chronological background to the texts	22
2 Tradition and doctrine		
2.1	Ancient materials from the Yashts	27
2.2	Verses from the Gathas	34
2.3	Passages from the Zand of lost Avestan texts	45
3 Worship, prayer and confession		
3.1	Selections from Yasna Haptanhaiti	53
	Passages from the yasna liturgy accompanying the preparation of	
	the haoma offering	55
3.3	The four great prayers	56
	The creed (Fravarane)	57
	The kusti prayers	58
	The Hamazor	59
	The benediction, or prayer for health (tan-dorosti)	59
3.8	From a general confession, Patet i Khwad	60
	4 Rules and observances	61
4.1	The cult of fire	61
	Concerning human 'nasa' and the proper disposal of the dead	64
	On 'taking the baj'	66
	Festivals	67
5 The life and legend of Zarathushtra		
5 1	The state of the s	71
	Passages from Younger Avestan texts Passages from the Zand of lost Avestan texts	72
		, 2

vi CONTENTS

5.3 Kavi Vishtaspa and the early wars of the faith	77
6 The fate of the soul at death, and a vision of heaven and hell	80
6.1 The fate of the soul, from Younger Avestan texts	80
6.2 The fate of the soul, from Pahlavi sources	82
6.3 A vision of heaven and hell, from Arda Viraz Namag	84
7 Apocalyptic texts	90
7.1 On the coming of the Saoshyant, from Yasht 19	90
7.2 On the three World Saviours, from the Zand	90
7.3 On the seven ages of the world, and the coming of the Saviours,	
from the Zand of Vahman Yasht	91
7.4 On Yima's var, from Vendidad 2	94
8 A Zoroastrian heresy: Zurvanism	96
8.1 A citation from Theopompus	96
8.2 Versions of the myth of Zurvan and his twin Sons	97
9 Dogmatic passages from ninth-century Pahlavi books	99
9.1 From 'Selected Precepts of the Ancient Sages'	99
9.2 From Shkand-gumanig Vizar, the 'Doubt-dispelling Exposition'	101
10 Historical texts	104
10.1 From the Achaemenian period	104
10.2 From the Parthian period	108
10.3 From the Sasanian period	109
10.4 Passages concerning the Arab conquest and the early centuries	116
of Islam 10.5 Concerning the Irani and Parsi communities, fifteenth to	115
eighteenth centuries A.C.	117
10.6 From the reports of Europeans, seventeenth to eighteenth	11,
centuries	123
11 The faith in modern times: the nineteenth and twentieth centuries	132
11.1 From nineteenth-century European writings on Zoroastrian	
dualism	132
11.2 Passages from Parsi theosophical writings	135
11.3 Writings by moderate and radical reformists	139
11.4 Tradition in belief and practice	144
11.5 Matters of controversy	153
11.6 Restatement and reappraisal	157
Bibliography	161
Glossarial index	165