## THE PRAYER OF MANASSES KING OF JUDAH, WHEN HE WAS HOLDEN CAPTIVE IN BARYLON.

<sup>1</sup> O LORD Almighty, that art in heaven, thou God of our fathers, of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and of their righteous seed; <sup>2</sup> who hast made heaven and earth, with all the \* ornament thereof; <sup>3</sup> who hast bound the sea by the word of thy commandment; who hast shut up the deep, and sealed it by thy terrible and glorious name; <sup>4</sup> whom all things fear, yea, tremble before thy power; 5 for the majesty of thy glory cannot be borne, and the anger of thy threatening toward sinners is importable: 6 thy merciful promise is unmeasurable and unsearchable; 7 for thou art the Lord Most High, of great compassion, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and repentest † of bringing evils upon men. 8 ‡Thou, O Lord, according to thy great goodness hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against thee: and of thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners, that they may be saved. Thou therefore, O Lord, that art the God of the just, hast not appointed repentance to the just, to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, which have not sinned against thee; but thou hast

<sup>\*</sup> **1:2** Or, order Or, array Gen. ii. 1 (Sept.). † **1:7** Gr. of the evils of men. ‡ **1:8** The Alex. MS. omits Thou... saved.

appointed repentance unto me that am a sinner: <sup>9</sup> for I have sinned above the number of the sands of the sea. My transgressions are multiplied, § O Lord: my transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold and see the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities. 10 I am bowed down with many iron bands, that I cannot lift up mine head \*\*by reason of my sins, neither have I any respite: for I have provoked thy wrath, and done that which is evil before thee: ††I did not thy will, neither kept I thy commandments: I have set up abominations, and have multiplied #detestable things. 11 Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace. 12 I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities: 13 but, I humbly beseech thee, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me for ever, by reserving evil for me; neither condemn me into the lower parts of the earth. For thou, §§ O Lord, art the God of them that repent; <sup>14</sup> and in me thou wilt shew all thy goodness: for thou wilt save me, that am unworthy, according to thy great mercy. <sup>15</sup> And I will praise thee for ever all the days of my life: for all the host of heaven doth sing thy praise, and thine is the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>\$\</sup>frac{1}{2}\$ 1:9 The Alex. MS. omits O Lord... multiplied. \*\* 1:10 Some authorities omit by reason of my sins. †† 1:10 The Alex. MS. omits I did... commandments. †† 1:10 Or, stumbling-blocks \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1:13 Another reading is, O God.

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2024-02-21

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 22 Feb 2024 from source files dated 21 Feb 2024

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