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

<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;

<sup>5</sup> for the majesty of thy glory cannot be borne, and the anger of thy threatening toward sinners is importable:

<sup>6</sup> thy merciful promise is unmeasurable and unsearchable;

<sup>7</sup> for thou art the Lord Most High, of great compassion, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and repentest † of bringing evils upon men.

<sup>8</sup> †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,

<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.

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 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.

- <sup>10</sup> 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.
- <sup>11</sup> Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace.
- <sup>12</sup> 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

<sup>§ 1:9</sup> 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* §§ 1:13 Another reading is, *O God.* 

thy great mercy.

15 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. Āmen.

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