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

1 O LORD Almighty, that art in heaven, thou God of our
fathers, of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and of their
righteous seed; 2 who hast made heaven and earth, with
all the * ornament thereof; 3 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;
4 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 appointed repen-
tance unto me that am a sinner: 9 for I have sinned above
the number of the sands of the sea. My transgressions are
multiplied, § O Lord: my transgressions are multiplied,

* 1:2 Or, order Or, array Gen. ii. 1 (Sept.). ‡ 1:8 The Alex. MS. omits Thou... saved.
† 1:7 Gr. of the evils of men. § 1:9 The Alex. MS. omits O Lord... multiplied.

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and I am not worthy to behold and see the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities.  

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.  

Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace.  

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities:  

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;  

and in me thou wilt shew all thy goodness: for thou wilt save me, that am unworthy, according to thy great mercy.  

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.

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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.
Revised Version with Apocrypha (1895)
The Revised Version of the Holy Bible (1895) with Apocrypha

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