

The Prayer of Manasséh King of the Jewes

O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, Abram, Isaac and Jacob, and of their righteous seed, which hast made heaven and earth with all their ornament, which hast bound the sea by the word of thy commandment, which hast shut up the deep and sealed it by thy terrible and glorious Name, whom all do fear and tremble before thy power: for the majesty of thy glory can not be born, and thine angry threatening toward sinners is importable, but thy merciful promise is unmeasurable and unsearchable. For thou art the most high Lord, of great compassion, long suffering and most merciful, and repentest for man's miseries. Thou, ô Lord, according to thy great goodness hast promised ^arepentance and forgiveness to them that sin against thee, and for thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners that they may be saved. Thou therefore, ô Lord, that art the God of the just, hast not appointed repentance to the just, as to Abram, and Isaac and Jacob, which have not ^bsinned against thee, but thou

hast appointed repentance unto me that am a sinner: for I have sinned above the number of the sand of the sea. My transgression, ô Lord, are multiplied: my transgressions are exceeding many: and I am not worthy to behold and see the height of the heavens for the multitude of mine unrighteousness. I am bowed down with many iron bands, that I can not lift up mine head, neither have any release. For I have provoked thy wrath and done evil before thee. I did not thy will, neither kept I thy commandments. I have set up abominations and have multiplied offenses. Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace. I have sinned, ô Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions: but I humbly beseech thee, forgive me: ô Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with my transgressions. Be not angry with me for ever by reserving evil for me, neither condemn me into the lower parts of the earth. For thou art the God, *even* the God of them that repent: and in me thou wilt shewe all thy goodness: for thou wilt save me that am unworthy, according to thy great mercy: therefore I will praise thee for ever all the days of my life, for all the power of the heavens praise thee, and thine is the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

This prayer is not in the Ebrewes, but is translated out of the Greek.

a Thou hast promised that repentance shall be the way for them to return to thee.

b He speaks this in comparison of himself and those holy fathers which have their commendation in the Scriptures, so that in respect of himself he calls their sins nothing, but attributes unto them righteousness.