OET Open English Translation

Open English Translation of the Bible

The Prayer of Menasheh

King of Yehudah,
When He Was Held Captive in Bavel

Introduction

This short *Prayer of Menasheh* (Manasseh) is presented as the prayer of Yehudah's (Judah's) king while he was held captive in Bavel (Babylon). The account in 2 Chronicles 33:10-20 tells how Menasheh humbled himself, prayed, and was restored to his kingdom, but doesn't give the words of his prayer. This document gives a prayer in his voice.
The prayer moves from acknowledging God's power and mercy to a direct confession of wrongdoing. Menasheh admits that he doesn't deserve rescue, asks for forgiveness, and promises to praise God. Its central hope is that God's compassion can reach even someone who has sinned greatly.
The Prayer of Menasheh is recognised as Deuterocanonical Scripture by the Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches. It is included in an appendix to the Latin Vulgate Bible.

Main components of this prayer

God's power, patience, and mercy *1:1-8*
Confession and a plea for forgiveness *1:9-13*
Confidence in God's mercy and a promise of praise *1:14-15*

The DC editions are placed side by side by chapter only. Their verse numbering and textual contents differ; corresponding lines are not established equivalents.

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Menasheh asks God for forgiveness

1:1 Oh LORD Almighty in heaven, God of our fathers Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov (Jacob), and of their righteous descendants, 2 you who've made heaven and earth, with all their order, 3 who've bound the sea by the word of your commandment, who've shut up the deep, and sealed it by your terrible and glorious name, 4 whom all things fear, yes, tremble before your power, 5 for the majesty of your glory can't be borne, and the anger of your threatening towards sinners is unbearable. 6 Your merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable, 7 for you're the master Most High, of great compassion, patient and abundant in mercy, and relent at human suffering. 8 You,[1] Oh master, according to your great goodness have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who've sinned against you. Of your infinite mercies, you've appointed repentance to sinners, that they may be saved. You therefore, Oh master, who are the god of the just, haven't appointed repentance to the just, to Avraham, Yitshak, and Ya'akov, which haven't sinned against you, but you've appointed repentance to me, a sinner. 9 Because I've sinned more times than there are grains of sand in the sea. My transgressions are multiplied,[2] Oh master, my transgressions are multiplied, and I'm not worthy to look up and see the height of heaven for the multitude of my iniquities. 10 I'm bowed down with many iron bands, so that I can't lift up my head because of my sins,[3] and I have no relief; for I've provoked your anger, and done that which is evil before you:[4] I didn't do your will, and I didn't keep your commandments. I've set up abominations, and have multiplied detestable things. 11 Now therefore I bow the knee of my heart, asking you for grace. 12 I've sinned, Oh master, I've sinned, and I acknowledge my iniquities; 13 but, I humbly ask you, forgive me, Oh master, forgive me, and please don't destroy me with my iniquities. Don't be angry with me forever, by reserving

Literal Version

1:1 lord ⟦παντοκράτωπ⟧, the/this/who God the/this/who father I/we ⟦τοῦ'⟧ Abra'am and Isa'ak and Yakōb and of_the seed he/she/it/self of_the just. 2 the/this/who to_do/make the/this/who heaven and the/this/who earth with all the/this/who world he/she/it/self. 3 the/this/who ⟦πεδήσας⟧ the/this/who sea the/this/who word of_the ⟦προστάγματός⟧ you, the/this/who to_shut the/this/who abyss and to_seal he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self the/this/who ⟦φοβερῷ⟧ and honoured name you; 4 which all ⟦φρίσσει⟧ and ⟦τρέμει⟧ away_ _from face power you, 5 that/since ⟦ἄστεκτος⟧ the/this/who majesty the/this/who glory you, and unsubdued the/this/who wrath the/this/who upon/to/against sinful threat you; 6 ⟦ἀμέτρητόν⟧ and/both and unsearchable the/this/who mercy the/this/who promise you; 7 you for to_be lord highest, compassionate, lenient and full_of_mercy, ⟦μετανοῶν⟧ upon/to/against ⟦κακίαις⟧ a_human. you, lord, according_to the/this/who multitude the/this/who kindness you ⟦ἐπηγγείλω⟧ repentance and forgiveness the/this/who ⟦ἡμαρτηκόσιν⟧ you, and the/this/who multitude the/this/who compassion you ⟦ὥρισας⟧ repentance sinful toward salvation. 8 you therefore/then, lord, the/this/who God the/this/who just, no to_place repentance just, the/this/who Abra'am and Isa'ak and Yakōb, the/this/who no ⟦ἡμαρτηκόσιν⟧ you, 9 ⟦Ἐπλήθυναν⟧ the/this/who/which lawlessness I/we, lord, ⟦ἐπλήθυναν⟧, and no to_be worthy to_ _gaze and to_perceive the/this/who height of_ _the heaven away_from multitude the/this/who ⟦ἀδικιῶν⟧ I/we, 10 ⟦κατακαμπτόμενος⟧ much ⟦δεσμῷ⟧ ⟦σιδηρῷ⟧ toward the/this/who not ⟦ἀνανεῦσαι⟧ the/this/who head I/we, and no to_ _be I/we rest, because ⟦παρώργισα⟧ the/this/who wrath you, and the/this/who evil/bad before you to_do/make, not to_do/make the/this/who will/desire you and not ⟦φυλάξας⟧ the/this/who ⟦προστάγματά⟧ you, ⟦στήσας⟧ ⟦βδελύγματα⟧ and ⟦πληθύνας⟧ ⟦προσοχθίσματα⟧. 11 and now to_bow/lay_down a_knee heart I/we to_pray the/this/who ⟦παθὰ⟧ you kindness;

1 **RV 1:8 · Note** The Alex. MS. omits You... saved.

2 **RV 1:9 · Note** The Alex. MS. omits Oh master... multiplied.

3 **RV 1:10 · Note** Some authorities omit by reason of my sins.

4 **RV 1:10 · Note** The Alex. MS. omits I did... commandments.

Literal Version

⟦ἡμάρτηκα⟧, 12 lord, ⟦ἡμάρτηκα⟧, and the/this/who lawlessness I/we I/we to_know. but to_ask to_pray you; ⟦ἄνες⟧ I/we, 13 lord, ⟦ἄνες⟧ I/we, and not ⟦συναπολέσῃς⟧ I/we the/this/who ⟦ἀνομίαις⟧ I/we, nor toward the/this/who an_ _age ⟦μηνίσας⟧ to_keep the/this/who evil/harm ⟦μαι⟧, nor ⟦καταδικάσῃς⟧ I/we in/on/among the/this/who ⟦κατωτάτοις⟧ the/this/who earth, because you to_be God, to_place the/this/who ⟦μετανοούντων⟧. 14 and in/on/among I/we/my ⟦δείξεις⟧ all the/this/who ⟦ἀγαθωσύνην⟧ you, that/since ⟦ἀνάξιον⟧ to_be to_save I/we according_to the/this/who much mercy you. 15 and ⟦αἰνέσω⟧ you through/because_of all in/on/among the/this/who day the/this/who life I/we, that/since you ⟦ὑμνεῖ⟧ all the/this/who power the/this/who heaven, and you to_be the/this/who glory toward the/this/who ⟦αἰῶναι⟧. amen

MAN · OET-LV v0.2.0 (DC set)

Readers' Version

evil for me. Don't condemn me into the lower parts of the earth. Because you, Oh master, are the god of those who repent. 14 In me you'll show all your goodness, for you'll save me, even though I'm unworthy, according to your great mercy. 15 Then I'll praise you forever all the days of my life; for all the army of heaven sings your praise, and yours is the glory forever and ever. Amen.

MAN · OET-RV v0.4.0

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