

# THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH

## Manasseh Asks God to Forgive Him

- 1** Almighty Lord, you are the God of our ancestors,  
the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and the God of their righteous descendants.
- 2** You made heaven and earth and everything in them.
- 3** You commanded the sea to stay within its boundaries.  
By the authority of your awe-inspiring and glorious name,  
you closed the bottomless pit and sealed it.
- 4** Everything shudders and trembles when you show your power.
- 5** No one can endure the majesty of your glory.  
No sinner can bear the threat of your anger.
- 6** The mercy you promised cannot be measured or understood.
- 7** You are the Lord Most High.  
You are compassionate, patient, and forever loving.  
You change your plans about bringing disaster on people.
- 8** You, Lord, are the God of righteous people.  
You don't tell righteous people to change the way they think and act.  
They are like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
who did not sin against you.  
But you have told me to change the way I think and act,  
because I am a sinner.
- 9** The sins I have committed are more numerous  
than the grains of sand on the seashore.  
I've been so disobedient, Lord, so disobedient.  
I don't deserve to look directly at you in heaven  
because I've done so many things wrong.
- 10** I'm crushed by the weight of many iron chains.  
I'm ashamed of all the sins I've committed,  
and I can't find any relief from my guilt.  
I've made you angry.  
I've done what you consider evil.  
I've set up disgusting idols,  
and I've done so many things to offend you.
- 11** But now, from the bottom of my heart, I beg you to be kind to me.
- 12** I have sinned, Lord; I have sinned.  
I admit that I'm disobedient.
- 13** I'm asking you—I'm begging you—  
to forgive me, Lord. Forgive me!  
Don't destroy me because of my sins.  
Don't stay angry with me forever  
or threaten to punish me.  
Don't condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
You, Lord, are the God of those

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- who change the way they think and act.
- 14** You will be good to me.  
You will save me because of your unlimited compassion,  
even though I am undeserving.
- 15** Then I will praise you continually every day of my life.  
The entire army of heaven will sing your praise,  
and your glory will last forever. Amen.