

ding to all the abominations of the heathen, and polluted the house of the Lord which he had sanctified in Ierusalém.

15 Therefore the Lord God of their fathers sent to the by his messengers, rising early and sending: for he had compassion on his people, and on his habitation. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God and despised his wordes, and misused his Prophetes, vntil the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, and til there was no remedie.

17 For he brought vpon them the King of the Caldeans, who slewe their yong men with the sword in the house of their Sanctuary, and spared nether yong man, nor virgine, ancient, nor aged. God gaue all into his hand,

18 And all the vessels of the house of God great & small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the King, and of his princes: all these caryed he to Babel.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake downe the wall of Ierusalém, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fyre, &

all the precious vessels thereof: to destroye all.

20 And thei that were left by the sworde, caryed he away to Babel, and they were seruants to him and to his sonnes, vntil the kingdome of the Persians had rule,

21 To fulfil the worde of the Lord by the mouth of Ieremiáh, vntil the lād had her fil of her Sabbaths: for all the dayes that she lay desolate, she kept Sabbath, to fulfil seuentie yeres.

22 ¶ But in the first yere of Cyrus King of Persia (when the worde of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Ieremiáh, was finished) the Lord stirred vp the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia, and he made a proclamation through all his kingdome, and also by writing, saying,

23 Thus sayth Cyrus King of Persia, All the kingdomes of the earth hath the Lord God of heauen giuen me, and he hath commanded me to buyld him an house in Ierusalém, that is in Iudáh. Who is among you of all his people, with whome the Lord his God let him go vp.

k Whē Cyrus King of Persia, had made the Babylonians subiect. I Who threatened the vengeance of God, and 70 yeres captiuitie, w he callethe the Sabbaths, or rest of the lād, Iere. 25, 11.

Iere. 25, 13.

29, 10.

3. 15, 1, 1.

m Is the first yere that he reigned ouer the Caldeans.

n God had so prophesied about an hundred yeres, before Cyrus was borne, Isa. 44, 28, that Ierusalém & the Temple should be buylt againe by Cyrus his anointed: so called, because God vndred his seruice for a time to deliuer his Church.

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THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH King of the Iewes.

O Lord almightie, God of our fathers, Abram, Isaac and Iacob, and of their righteous seed, which hast made heauen and earth with all their ornament, which hast bound the sea by the worde of thy commandement, which hast shut vp the depe and sealed it by thy terrible and glorious Name, whome all do feare & tremble before thy power: for the maiestie of thy glorie can not be borne, & thine angrie threatening toward sinners is importable, but thy merciful promes is vnmeasurable & vnsearcheable. For thou art the moste high Lord, of great compassiō, long suffering & moste merciful, & repētest for mā's miseries. Thou, O Lord, accordig to thy great goodnes hast promised a repentance & forgiuenes to them that sinne against thee, & for thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance vnto sinners that thei may be saued. Thou therefore, O Lord, that art the God of the iuste, hast not appointed repentance to the iuste, as to Abram, and Isaac and Iacob, which haue not sinned against thee, but thou hast appointed repentance vnto me that am a sinner: for I haue sinned about the nōber of the sand of the sea. My transgressions,

O Lord, are multiplied: my transgressions are exceding many: and I am not worthy to beholde & se the height of the heauens for the multitude of mine vnrighteousnes. I am bowed downe with many yro bādes, that I cā not lift vp mine head, nether haue any release. For I haue prouoked thy wrath and done euil before thee. I did not thy wil, nether kept I thy commandements. I haue set vp abominations & haue multiplied offenses. Now therefore I bowe the kne of mine heart, besechig thee of grace. I haue sinned, O Lord, I haue sinned, & I acknowledge my trasgressiōs: but I humbly besche thee, forgiue me: O Lord, forgiue me, & destroye me not with my transgressions. Be not angry with me for euer by referuig euil for me, nether condemne me into the lower partes of the earth. For thou art the God, euen the God of them that repent: and in me thou wilt shewe all thy goodnes: for thou wilt saue me that am vnworthy, according to thy great mercie: therefore I wil praise thee for euer all the dayes of my life. for all the power of the heauens praise thee, & thine is the glorie for euer & euer, Amen.

Ff.iii.

¶ For by the hād of his. By this phrase the Scripture meaneth of ten times and diligently, as Iere. 11, 7. 25, 3. & 4, 26, 5. & 32, 33.

g Til God coulde no longer suffer their finnes, but muste nedes punish them. h Whether thei fled, thinking to haue bene saued for the holines thereof.

i Which is not because God approueth him which yet is the minister of his iustice, but because God wolde by his iuste iudgement punish this people: for this King was led with ambition and vaine glorie, whereunto were ioyned surie and crueltie: therefore his worke was condēnable, notwithstanding it was iuste and holy on Gods parte, who vied this wicked instrument to declare his iustice.

¶ This prayer is not in the Hebrew, but is translated out of the Greeke.

a Thou hast promised that repentance shal be the way for the to returne to thee.

b He speaketh this in comparison of him selfe & those holy fathers which haue their commendation in the Scriptures, so that in respect of him selfe he callethe their finnes nothing, but attributeth vnto them righteousness.