

The Prayer of Manasseh (NRSV)

- ¹ O Lord Almighty, God of our ancestors, of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob
and of their righteous offspring;
- ² you who made heaven and earth with all their order;
- ³ who shackled the sea by your word of command,
who confined the deep and sealed it with your terrible and glorious name;
- ⁴ at whom all things shudder, and tremble before your power,
⁵ for your glorious splendor cannot be borne,
and the wrath of your threat to sinners is unendurable;
- ⁶ yet immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,
⁷ for you are the Lord Most High, of great compassion, long-suffering, and very merciful,
and you relent at human suffering.
- O Lord, according to your great goodness
you have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against you,
and in the multitude of your mercies
you have appointed repentance for sinners,
so that they may be saved.
- ⁸ Therefore you, O Lord, God of the righteous, have not appointed repentance for the righteous,
for Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against you,
but you have appointed repentance for me, who am a sinner.
- ⁹ For the sins I have committed are more in number than the sand of the sea;
my transgressions are multiplied, O Lord, they are multiplied!
I am not worthy to look up and see the height of heaven
because of the multitude of my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ I am weighted down with many an iron fetter,
so that I am rejected because of my sins,
and I have no relief;
for I have provoked your wrath and have done what is evil in your sight,
setting up abominations and multiplying offenses.
- ¹¹ And now I bend the knee of my heart, imploring you for your kindness.
- ¹² I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions.
- ¹³ I earnestly implore you, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me!
Do not destroy me with my transgressions!
Do not be angry with me forever or store up evil for me;
do not condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent,
- ¹⁴ and in me you will manifest your goodness;
for, unworthy as I am, you will save me according to your great mercy,
- ¹⁵ and I will praise you continually all the days of my life.
For all the host of heaven sings your praise,
and yours is the glory forever. Amen.

Home at Last!
Veritas Class
April 3, 2016
Deuteronomy 27:9-13

C. Securing the Devotion of the People of Yahweh (27:11-26)

1. The Corporate Blessing and Curse Ritual (vv. 11-13)

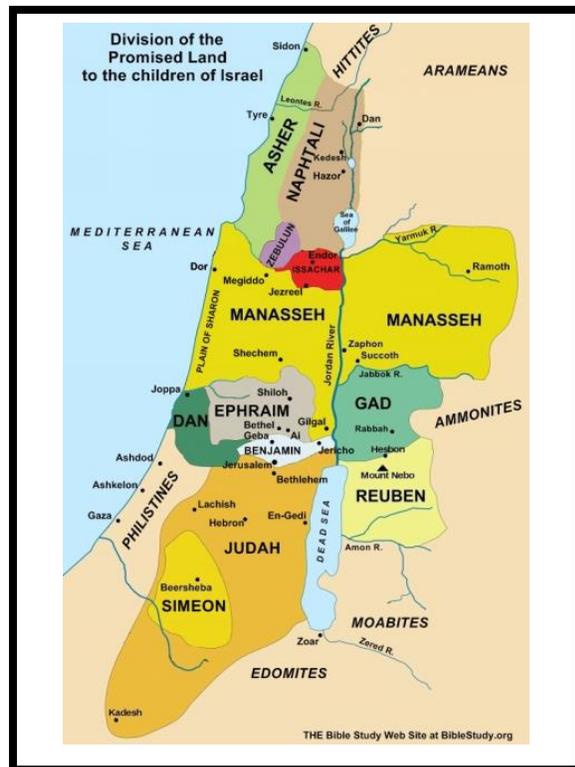
Element	The Gerizimite Tribes	The Ebalite Tribes
Title	These shall stand	And these shall stand
Purpose	for blessing the people (לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הָעָם)	for the curse (עַל־הַקְּלָלָה)
Location	on Mount Gerizim when you have crossed the Jordan	on Mount Ebal
Tribal Arrangement	2 Simeon (Leah) 3 and Levi (Leah) 4 and Judah (Leah) 9 and Issachar (Leah) 11 and Joseph 12 and Benjamin	1 Reuben (Leah) 7 Gad (Zilpah/L) 8 and Asher (Zilpah/L) 10 and Zebulun (Leah) 5 Dan (Bilhah/R) 6 and Naphtali (Bilhah)

Why on these mountains?

Why this division of the tribes?

Why with a loud voice (v. 14)

What are the blessings and the curses?



The Individualized Curse Ritual (vv. 13–26)

a. The Content and Structure of the Individualized Covenantal Anathemas

Idolatry (secret)	A	Violation of the Supreme Commandment
Dishonoring parents	B	Violation of fundamental domestic order
Moving a neighbor's landmark	C	Violation of a neighbor's rights
Misleading the blind	D	Violation of the rights of the economically marginalized
Perverting the rights of the alien, fatherless and widow		
Having intercourse with one's [step]mother	E	Violation of domestic sexual boundaries
Having intercourse with an animal		
Having intercourse with one's sibling		
Having intercourse with one's mother-in-law		
Striking down a neighbor (secret)	C	Violation of a neighbor's rights
Accepting a bribe in crime against life	B	Violation of fundamental social order
General Disregard of the Torah	A	Violation of the covenant in principle

b. Observations on these Anathemas

- (1) The Greek translation of *'ārûr*: ἐπικατάρατος
- (2) The number: twelve (one for every tribe?)
- (3) The form: Cursed be the one who does . . .
- (4) The addressee: individual (cf. secret)
- (5) The structure: modified chiasm
- (6) The frame: idolatry . . . This whole Torah
- (7) The center of gravity (sexual taboos)
- (8) The pairing
- (9) Some are capital offences elsewhere
- (10) Some call for purging of the land

c. The Significance of the “Amen’s”

d. How did Israel do on these anathemas?

e. What about “the curse of the law” in Gal 3:10–14?

3. How is Deuteronomy 27 my Scripture? What does it teach me for today?