Gretchen A. Shapiro The Psalms of David (BIB/THO 556X) Dr. Ronald A. Brauner, Instructor Fall 2006

Psalm 152 A Psalm of Alyza

This Psalm is attributed to Alyza. Alyza is the daughter of Bitzale-l Lev the son of Yitzkak, a descendant of David Ha'Melech through his son Shlomo. The Psalmist writes out of a sense of gratitude for all that she has, knowing all is a gift from G-d. She also teaches us that what we have should be shared with those who are in need, be it talent or sustenance. This Psalm can be historically placed in the beginning of the 21st century C.E. (Sung loosely to the tune of Psalm 23... with an extended niggun at the close)

¹Mizmor l'Alyza, upon guitara.

²Happy is one who knows

all good comes from HaShem

HaShem is kind to all

so he who understands is glad.

³All our food and clothes are gifts from G-d above

and from the L-rd come all of our homes and a-cars-a

All that we have, all that we earn

is from the One Above.

⁴HaShem provides for us all

from the rich to the poor

Widows and orphans and strangers

He cares for them all

⁵He wants us to care too

to take care of those who have less

To show we care by giving others what they need

With the gifts that He gave to us.

⁶Gifts of sustenance, and gifts of ability too

all should be shared with those in need.

Happy is he who doles out G-d's bounty

And blessed is he who gives.

Stylistic Comments: the two distichs in verse 2 are synonymously parallel externally, while being internally synthetically parallel. Both distichs in verse 3 contain stichs that are synthetically parallel internally and together they are synonymously parallel. The same holds true for verse 4. In verse 5, the first three stichs are in staircase parallelism, one building upon and amplifying the one before. The last two stichs in verse 5 are synonymously parallel, amplifying the staircase as well. Verse 6 contains two distichs, the first of which is synthetically parallel, the second is synthetically parallel, incompletely (both internal).

^a Meaning of Hebrew uncertain