Count Your Blessings

Date Palms near the Dead Sea

Violin Solo
A special treat for my husband are the dates of Israel, which we like to buy at Moshav Kinneret, just southwest of the Sea of Galilee, or at Jerusalem’s Machaneh Yehuda Market, between Jaffa and Agrippas Streets, filled with the brilliant colors of Jerusalem’s best quality and lowest priced fruit, vegetables, cheeses, falafel stands, fresh fish and poultry. It can be riotously busy!

Just recently (2005), a Judean date palm, long extinct, from ancient Israel, sprang to life. This 2000 year-old seed (carbon dated between 60 B. C. and 95 A. D.) had been discovered in excavations of Masada (1965). As of June, 2008, the tree had nearly a dozen fronds and was about four feet tall. The plant was nicknamed “Methuselah,” it being the oldest known tree seed successfully germinated.

Forests of date palms once grew around the Dead Sea, south, to the Sea of Galilee and to northern Galilee. A date palm was engraved on the ancient Hebrew shekelim and is now featured on the ten-shekel coin of the new Israeli shekel. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Emperor Vespasian minted a special bronze coin with a date palm and a caption, “Judea Capta.”

The palm tree (Hebrew: tamar) is not only prized for its shade, fruit, and medicinal properties, but its straight trunk symbolizes the Christian’s journey on the straight and narrow, well-trodden path of the King’s Highway, right through enemy territory, not being diverted, to look right or left, but to keep his eyelids before him, not attracted by the world’s pleasures, honors, ambitions, and successes (Nu. 21:21-22). Why will he not drink of the wells of the world? Because he has something better than the world can give him. He has the streams of living water, which flow from eternal love, and which flow from the cross of Christ. They bring every blessing that he could ever need!!!
Count Your Blessings

Edwin O. Excell
Arr. by Glenda Macomber

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
you discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Count your blessings, See what God hath done;
Count your many blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See what God hath done.
So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;

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Count Your Blessings

Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your blessings, See what God hath done; Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your many blessings, See what God hath done. Allegro
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When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,

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Refrain

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