

Spiritual Testimonies 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Saint Teresa of Avila

4. Prophecy of her Death

Toledo, Nov. 17, 1569

On November 17, 1569, during the octave of St. Martin, I saw that **twelve years** had gone by out of the **thirty-three**, the number of years the Lord lived; so **twenty-one** still remained.

This happened in the monastery of the glorious St. Joseph of Carmel in Toledo. I for you and you for me. Life. Twelve were lived for me and not for my will.

5. God's Standards are different from the World's

Toledo, 1570

While at the monastery in Toledo, some were advising me to **not** give a **burying-place** to anyone not of the **nobility**.

The Lord said to me: "**You will grow very foolish, daughter, if you look at the world's laws. Fix your eyes on me, poor and despised by the world. Will the great ones of the world, perhaps, be great before me? Or, are you to be esteemed for lineage or for virtue?**"

6. Our Lord encourages Teresa to make more Foundations & to write their History

Malagon, Feb. 9, 1570

After Communion, ... our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me in an **imaginative vision**, as He usually does... I saw in the place of the crown of thorns a **crown of great brilliance** on His head, there where the **wounds** must have been made. Devoted to this episode of the Passion, I was very **consoled** and began to think how great the **torment** must have been since there were so many **wounds** ... The Lord told me that I shouldn't grieve over those wounds, but over the many now inflicted upon Him. I asked Him what I

could do to **remedy** this ... He told me that now was **not** the time for **rest**, but that I should hurry to **finish these houses**; that He found His **rest** with the **souls** living in them; that I should **accept** as many houses as given me since many did not serve Him having no place to do so; that houses founded in small towns should be like this one here in Malagon; that I should put all the houses under the **government** of a **superior**; that **interior peace** not be lost over concern for **bodily sustenance**; that He would help so nothing would be lacking; that the sick should be cared for; that a prioress who did not provide for and favor the sick was like Job's friends; that He made use of the **scourge** for the good of souls, and that in such an event they should practice **patience**; and that I should **write** about the foundation of these houses ... He wanted it to be seen that the **Medina** foundation had been **miraculous**. He meant that He alone founded that house ... As a result I decided to **write** about the founding of these houses.

7. A Message to be given

Place unknown; perhaps 1570

While thinking about what I should say about a message the Lord had given me and that I didn't understand, even though I had prayed to Him. I thought the message had come from the devil. He told me that this was not so and that He would advise me when the time came.

8. Right Intention & Detachment

Place unknown; perhaps 1570

Once while thinking of how much more **purely** one lives when withdrawn from business affairs; and how when involved in them I make little progress and commit many faults, I heard: "**It cannot be helped, daughter; strive to have the right intention and to be detached in all things. Look at me so that what you do may be done in conformity with what I did.**"