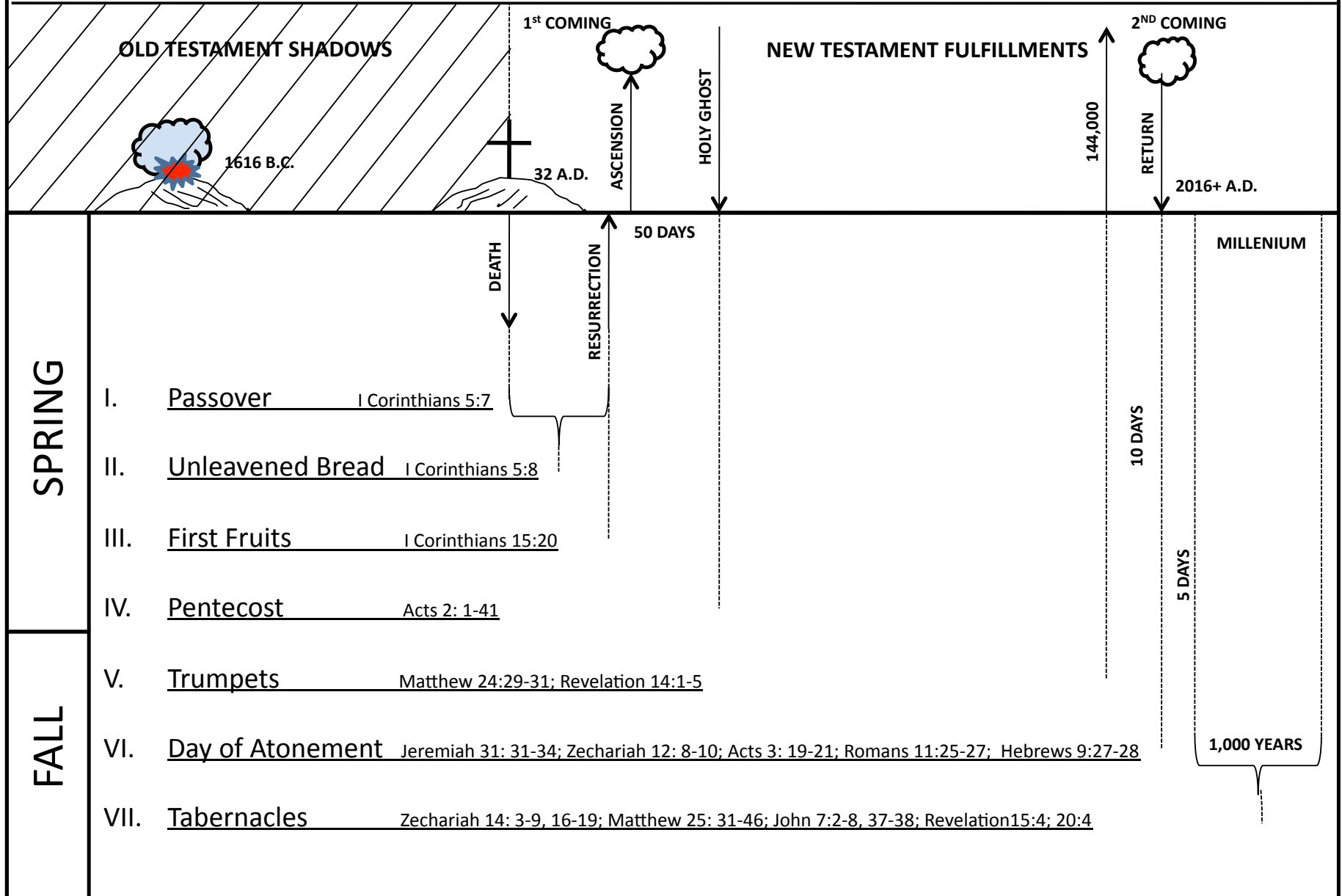


THE SEVEN FEASTS – LEVITICUS 23



God gave seven very important **feasts** to the children of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai (Leviticus 23). The first four of these special events were to be kept in the spring of each year, while the observance of the remaining three was to take place in the fall. These holy **convocations** were to be strictly followed and continually celebrated throughout all future generations. Though there was much historical significance that the Lord intended to be remembered, the major purpose of these feasts' existence was never fully grasped by Israel. In reality, these Old Testament **holy days** were simply mere shadows of future monumental events, which would one day come to pass in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:1-9, 23-28; 10:1-7). But instead of following each shadow to its designated prophetic end, most Hebrews totally missed out on what the Lord so deeply desired for them to see.

As God would have it, the first four of these feasts reached their predetermined destinations at the First Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the last year of His earthly ministry, Jesus died for the sins of mankind on the very day of **Passover**. For the next three days the tightly sealed tomb would testify to the reality of that death during the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**. On the first day of the week, Jesus Christ miraculously rose from the dead to fulfill the **Feast of First Fruits** – proving once and for all that he was indeed Lord. Then precisely fifty days later on the **Day of Pentecost** He sent His Spirit to fill and empower His disciples to testify to Israel that He was alive and present at the right hand of the Father.

To this day, the three remaining feasts have yet to be fulfilled. But one day soon their shadows will also come to an end in the final year of the great Tribulation. Prior to the future coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth, He will call home His 144,000 faithful Hebrew witnesses on the **Feast of Trumpets**. Ten days later on the **Day of Atonement** that same year, the Lord will return to save His remnant out of Israel and take away their sins. Then finally as all nations are gathered to Israel to be judged, the Lord will mark the official beginning of His 1,000 year reign, fulfilling the **Feast of Tabernacles**.