Have you ever tried to put a puzzle together without looking at the picture on the box? Years ago I helped my wife and daughters with a puzzle. Try as I might, the pieces did not fit unless I constantly referred to the big picture. Without the big picture, the individual pieces made no sense.

Many Christians have never read the entire Bible because no one has ever showed them how the Bible fits together. They have read the individual accounts, but they haven't grasped how the story unfolds. They find themselves with individual pieces of a gigantic puzzle, without a picture to guide them.

This chart will help you see the big picture – with the puzzle pieces being the 66 books of the Bible. If you spend a few moments looking at this chart you will notice that it moves the story line of the Bible forward while showing the time periods of the individual books. You'll discover that not all the books of the Bible are in chronological order. This chart highlights which books are central to the Bible's storyline and which books support the story.

The Bible takes us on a tour of the History of Redemption, a drama that begins in a Garden and ends in a City. It is the story of how God redeems His people through Jesus Christ. This story has a great purpose; it displays the glory of God and His redemptive plan for mankind.

Begin reading in Genesis. Keep this chart handy so that you can refer to it often. You will discover with great joy that you also have a place in the grand plan of God's Drama of Redemption.

—Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer

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THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION

THE STORY OF HOW GOD BROUGHT HIS SALVATION TO US

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI
MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

2000 BC | 1440 BC | 1200 BC | 1000 BC | 722 BC | 586 BC | 538 BC | 444 BC | YEAR 0 | 90 AD

Beginnings — Eden/Egypt
CREATION, THE FALL,
ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Exit — Egypt/Mt. Sinai
GOD DELIVERS FROM EGYPT
MOSAIC COVENANT

Wanderings — Mt. Sinai/Moab
FORTY YEARS OF DESERT
WANDERING

Conquest — Canaan
ISRAELITES TAKE POSESSION
OF THE PROMISED LAND

Cycles — Canaan
DISOBEDIENCE
IN ISRAEL

Samuel/Saul — Israel
KINGDOM OF SAUL

David — Israel
KINGDOM OF DAVID
DAVIDIC COVENANT

Solomon/Country Split — Israel/Judah
ISRAEL DIVIDES INTO NORTHERN (ISRAEL)
& SOUTHERN (JUDAH) KINGDOMS

Captivities — Israel/Judah
ASSYRIA CONQUERS THE NORTH;
BABYLON CONQUERS THE SOUTH;
NEW COVENANT PROMISED

Dry Bones/Dreams — Babylon
EXILED JEWS LIVE IN BABYLON

Return — Babylon/Jerusalem
EZRA REBUILDS THE TEMPLE
SOME JEWS RETURN TO JERUSALEM

Walls — Babylon/Jerusalem
NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALLS
SOME JEWS RETURN TO JERUSALEM

SILENCE — 400 YEARS

Good News — Israel
LIFE OF CHRIST
NEW COVENANT FULFILLED

Spread — Asia Minor/Rome
GROWTH OF THE CHURCH
INSTRUCTION/ENCOURAGEMENT

Future Events Prophesied — World
RETURN OF JESUS
NEW HEAVEN/NEW EARTH

RUTH | 1 CHRONICLES | 2 CHRONICLES | ESTHER

GENESIS | EXODUS | NUMBERS | JOSHUA | JUDGES | 1 SAMUEL | 2 SAMUEL | 1 KINGS | 2 KINGS | DANIEL | EZRA | NEHEMIAH | INTERTESTMENTAL PERIOD | GOSPELS | ACTS | REVELATION

JOB

LEVITICUS

DEUTERONOMY

PSALMS

PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS

OBADIAH
JOEL
MICAH
ISAIAH
NAHUM
ZEPHANIAH
JEREMIAH
HABAKKUK
LAMENTATIONS

JONAH
AMOS
HOSEA

EZEKIEL

HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE

Color Key

- HISTORICAL/NARRATIVE
- PROPHETIC LITERATURE
- POETS/PROVERBS/WISDOM LITERATURE

1050 BC
SAUL, DAVID, SOLOMON

922 BC
ISRAEL

722 BC
TO ASSYRIA

JUDAH

586 BC
TO BABYLON

THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION