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