

# “Explain the difference between the *Quick Journey* and the *Bible Timeline* study.”

By Sarah Christmyer

Simply put, the Quick Journey is an introduction to the Bible Timeline learning system while the Bible Timeline study is an in-depth program that takes you through the fourteen narrative books of the Bible. The Bible Timeline is the cornerstone of The Great Adventure; it is the foundation on which everything else depends. In its essence, it is a learning system—a method of approaching Bible reading and study that begins by laying out the “big picture” of salvation history in way that is easy to grasp and remember. It simplifies the Bible story by dividing it into twelve time periods and by focusing in on those fourteen books that provide a chronological narrative of the story, from Creation to the Church. Once this overall context is learned, the rest of the Bible is read within it.

At the center of this learning system is an indispensable piece: the Bible Timeline chart. If the learning system is the cornerstone of the building, the chart is the framework on which it is built. Here are its essential elements: the twelve color-coded periods; the people and events that form the story, spread along a timeline; the fourteen narrative and fifty-nine supplemental books and how they fit together to tell the story; a representation of the growth of God’s family by covenant; the world powers in ascendancy at any given time; and key events in secular history to help you anchor the history you read in Scripture to the history you already know.

Several programs help people read and study the Bible using the learning system. Some are simple; others are not. Some are short; some take a long time to complete. They may be used individually or in combination, depending on the needs of your parish. Here is an overview:

## **The Bible Timeline Seminar.**

This is the “granddaddy,” the seminar that started it all. In one day, Jeff Cavins (or another Great Adventure teacher) introduces you to this Catholic approach to reading Scripture and explains the learning system and chart. He then tells the Story from beginning to end. It is an exciting overview that has already launched hundreds of thousands of people into reading the Bible.

## **A Quick Journey through the Bible.**

This study takes the material taught in the seminar and spreads it over eight single sessions to give people time to absorb it. A series of half-hour talks by Jeff Cavins anchors the program, which includes a student workbook of background information, group discussion questions, and light assignments or home preparation that reinforce the main teaching points.

## **The Bible Timeline Guided Journal.**

Our goal is ultimately is to help people read Scripture on their own, and we always recommend that you begin by reading through the narrative books first. This can be daunting even for seasoned Bible readers; hence, the Guided Journal. Its ninety-day reading plan is divided into time periods, each of which begins with an overview. Journal entries include space for taking notes, recording questions, and responding to God in prayer as well as hints and questions to guide and encourage the reader.

## **The Bible Timeline Study.**

Once people get a taste of God’s plan in Scripture, they invariably want to dig in and learn more. This twenty- four-part study covers the twelve periods of salvation history, guiding people through the narrative books and focusing attention on events critical to learning the big picture. Individual study, group discussion, and recorded lectures by Jeff Cavins work together to provide a solid program of instruction. The New Testament is brought to bear on the Old and

vice-versa through cross-references, and selections from the Catechism are used to shed light on the readings. It is a rich study that can be done by the novice or the experienced student of Scripture.

*If you have a question for Sarah, please email it to [questions@GreatAdventureOnline.com](mailto:questions@GreatAdventureOnline.com). Sarah Christmyer is editor of The Great Adventure Bible Study series and co-author of The Bible Timeline Bible study, Adventures in Matthew, and Adventures in Acts.*