



## Masterpiece

Today as I was catching up with friends on social media, my feed offered up a video that the algorithm thought I might find interesting. It was right; I was mesmerized.

Somewhat mysteriously a woman was creating something out of a cylindrical pile of sand several feet tall. She is a sand sculptor who has mastered the craft. As the seconds pass, you see her begin to use her simple tools that a painter or a baker might use to create phases of her emerging art. She scraped, she etched lines, she scraped more, she leveled. At times, she scooped half-moons with a measuring spoon and created a scalloped architecture. Other times, spatulas, rulers, and paintbrushes helped create windows and doorways and elaborate porticos. I'm sure the video didn't record it all, but what it did record allowed you to see the multiple simple, small steps that were taken over and over to achieve the result she was seeking. The camera pans out for the viewer to see the result: a beautiful multi-level castle set inside a walled courtyard.

The result was awe-inspiring. How could so many simple, repetitive, basic actions create such an elaborate, if temporary, piece of art? Knowing how things work together is one piece of the puzzle—as is knowing how to build upon the foundation and bottom layers to get a more detailed and finished look.

When you look at the whole of Scripture you can see “the Jesus thread” woven throughout. Small details are built on a foundation and point to an ultimate, eternal purpose. Every detail helps to shape and tell the story of God. The story comes into better and better focus as you can place details in context and connect them together. Our daily Bible reading guide is designed to help you do that, quarter by quarter and year by year. Bit by bit, you are reading a masterpiece, built on solid rock. Savor each part with wonder.

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