

25-0302a - Detailed Summary

25-0302a - *Like A Rock*, Tom Freed

Bible Readers: Mike Mathis and Kevin Woosley

This detailed summary by Grok, xAI

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(Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

Like A Rock

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 26:41)

Scripture Readings:

1st Scripture Reading (0:04 - 0:58), Mike Mathis

Psalm 18:1-3,

The passage expresses deep devotion and reliance on God, portraying Him as a source of strength and protection. The verses read, "I will love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. My God, my strength in whom I will trust, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies." These lines establish a theme of God as a dependable and praiseworthy figure, setting the tone for the sermon that follows.

2nd Scripture Reading (0:59 - 2:00), Kevin Woosley

Matthew 7:24-25,

The speaker transitions to a second scripture from Matthew 7, verses 24 and 25, which compares a wise man who builds his house on a rock to someone who follows Jesus' teachings. The text states, "Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. When the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

Summary

Preacher: Tom Freed

(2:01 - 2:59) Reflection on the Chevy "Like a Rock" Commercial

After greeting the congregation with a "Good morning," the speaker introduces the sermon titled "Like a Rock," humorously clarifying it's not related to a Chevy commercial, though this reference soon becomes a point of discussion. The speaker reminisces about a memorable 1993 Chevrolet commercial featuring the song "Like a Rock" by Bob Seger, which he researched on YouTube. He recalls being 15 at the time and describes the ad's depiction of rugged workers loading a durable Chevy truck, emphasizing its power and reliability. This nostalgic detour serves as a relatable entry point to connect the commercial's imagery of toughness and dependability to the sermon's focus on

God's unwavering strength, noting that God surpasses even the truck's famed reliability.

(3:01 - 4:14) God as a Rock in Scripture

Returning to the sermon's core theme, the speaker acknowledges that a rock might not initially seem like an apt metaphor for an omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God, often viewed as mundane or obstructive. However, he explains that God perceives things differently, using various metaphors like shepherd, father, rock, king, shield, fortress, potter, and light to reveal His nature in terms relatable to people during biblical times. These metaphors, especially "rock," conveyed spiritual truths and God's love effectively through stories, a practice particularly evident in the Old Testament.

(4:15 - 5:55) Contemporary Chaos and the Need for Stability

The speaker shifts to the present, describing the tumultuous state of the world with issues like political unrest, natural disasters, wars, crime, economic struggles, racial tensions, corruption, moral decay, inflation, and terrorism. He adds personal challenges—sickness, cancer, death, relationship issues, financial woes, work stress, mental health, addiction, and housing costs—highlighting how life's storms overwhelm individuals daily. In such unstable times, he argues, people need a steady foundation, and God, as depicted in Psalms 18:1-2, offers an unmovable refuge amid chaos.

(5:55 - 7:42) God's Perfection and David's Reliance on Him as a Rock

Reiterating Psalms 18:1-2, the speaker emphasizes God as a rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, and stronghold. He references Deuteronomy 32:4, where Moses calls God "the rock" whose works are perfect and ways just, underscoring His unchanging nature. The speaker cites Psalm 18:30-31, where David praises God's flawless word and protective shield, questioning who else could be God or a rock. He illustrates David's life—facing lions, bears, Saul's pursuit, and kingly trials—showing how David consistently found safety in God, often literally hiding among rocks and caves.

(7:44 - 10:26) David's Repeated Appeals to God as a Rock

The speaker explores multiple Psalms where David calls God his rock and refuge. In Psalm 31:1-3, David seeks deliverance and guidance, naming God his rock and fortress. Psalm 61:1-4 depicts David crying out from despair, longing for the "rock that is higher than I" as a refuge. Psalm 71:1-4 and 9:41-51 similarly portray David turning to God as a rock of refuge amid danger from the wicked. These examples highlight David's habitual reliance on God's steadfastness, a model the speaker urges the audience to emulate in their own chaotic lives.

(10:27 - 12:27) Reasons God is Called a Rock - Stability and Eternity

The speaker outlines reasons God is likened to a rock, drawing from study guides and sermons. First, rocks are solid and immovable, reflecting God's unchanging nature, as affirmed in Hebrews 13:8 ("Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and forever") and James 1:17 (no variation or change in God). This stability offers direction when the world shifts. Unlike human perceptions of change, God remains eternal and consistent, a reliable constant amidst life's unpredictability.

(12:29 - 14:03) God as a Protective Refuge and Solid Foundation

Continuing, the speaker notes that rocks provide refuge and protection, as David experienced. Psalms 62:2 and 94:22 affirm God as a fortress and stronghold that prevents believers from being shaken. Additionally, rocks symbolize a solid foundation, as in Matthew 7:24-25, where a house built on rock withstands storms if founded on God's word. This foundation ensures resilience against life's attacks, reinforcing God's role as an unyielding support.

(14:23 - 15:11) God's Eternal Nature as a Rock

Finally, the speaker describes rocks as nearly eternal, lasting thousands of years, mirroring God's everlasting presence. Psalm 16:8 ("I have set the Lord always before me... I will not be shaken") and Isaiah 26:4 ("Trust in the Lord forever") underscore this permanence. God, as an unchanging rock, is always available to bear burdens, offering enduring reliability no matter the circumstances.

(15:12 - 15:56) God as an Everlasting Rock and Weapon

The speaker continues exploring the metaphor of God as a rock, citing Isaiah 40:28 to emphasize His eternal nature: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired and weary." This underscores God's inexhaustible strength. The discussion shifts to rocks as weapons in ancient times, contrasting their obsolescence today ("You're not going to bring a rock to a gunfight") with their historical use, such as stoning sinners or David's slaying of Goliath with a stone. This introduces God as a fighter for His people, wielding power akin to a weapon.

(15:57 - 17:21) God Fights for Us and Cuts Through Sin

Building on the weapon metaphor, the speaker describes God as a divine protector who battles on behalf of believers, referencing Psalms 144:1 ("Praise be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle") and Deuteronomy 3:22 ("The Lord, your God, will fight for you"). Romans 8:31 ("If God is for us, who can be against us?") reinforces this assurance. The speaker then likens God to a rock with sharp edges, capable of cutting through negative circumstances and internal sins—toxic habits, behaviors, and emotions—much like a surgeon removing cancer. Hebrews 4:12 describes God's Word as "sharper than any double-edged sword," penetrating soul and spirit to judge thoughts and attitudes, cleansing believers spiritually.

(17:23 - 19:15) Jesus as the Cornerstone

The speaker transitions to rocks in construction, presenting Jesus as the "cornerstone" that unites and supports, per 1 Peter 2:7 and Matthew 16:18, where Jesus tells Peter, "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Isaiah 28:16 further describes Him as "a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation," ensuring stability for believers. This cornerstone role signifies Jesus as the foundational rock of the church, binding Christians together and bearing life's weight, offering an unshakable base regardless of obstacles.

(19:16 - 20:18) God as a Rock of Provision

Rocks also symbolize provision, exemplified by God providing water from a rock for the Israelites

in Moses' time. The speaker connects this to God's universal care, citing Matthew 5:45 ("he makes his sunrise on the evil and good, and sends rain on the just and unjust") and Philippians 4:19 ("my God will supply every need of yours"). 2 Corinthians 9:8 reinforces that God's grace ensures sufficiency, recalling the desert miracle where Moses spoke to a rock for water, illustrating God's ability to meet needs in dire circumstances.

(20:19 - 21:17) Rocks for Sharpening and Building Up

The speaker notes that rocks sharpen objects, paralleling how Christians strengthen each other through God's Word. Proverbs 27:17 ("As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another") and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ("encourage one another and build one another up") highlight communal edification. This sharpening occurs as believers discuss God and support each other, fostering growth and resilience within the faith community, much like a rock honing a blade.

(21:18 - 23:16) God as a Place of Safety and Eternal Strength

Returning to safety, the speaker likens a rock to a refuge during storms, such as hurricanes or floods, and extends this to God as a sanctuary in life's trials. Psalms 18:46, 89:26, and 2 Samuel 22:2-4 praise God as a living rock, fortress, and deliverer who saves from violence and enemies. His attributes—powerful, unmovable, unshakable, unbreakable, eternal—make Him a constant refuge, always present regardless of human actions, offering safety in turbulent times.

(23:18 - 24:20) God's Truth in a Chaotic World

In a world rife with evil, hatred, chaos, lies, and deception, the speaker stresses the necessity of God as a rock of truth and stability. God's Word provides an unassailable foundation, unlike the world's falsehoods. Echoing David's reliance, God is a stronghold offering peace, safety, and joy amid a fallen world. The speaker warns that rejecting Jesus, the cornerstone, leads to being crushed by it (Matthew 21:44), contrasting this with the security of standing on His foundation.

(24:21 - 25:20) The Consequences of Rejecting Jesus

The speaker ponders how people cope without faith, emphasizing the comfort of prayer and God's care. Rejecting Jesus, he warns, results in a miserable life and eternal damnation, with no benefit—"Why reject Jesus and spend eternity in hell?" Matthew 21:44 reiterates that falling on or being crushed by the cornerstone is inevitable for non-believers. Conversely, accepting Jesus offers a solid foundation now and eternally, as every knee will eventually bow to Him (implied from Philippians 2:10-11), urging voluntary submission before Judgment Day.

(25:23 - 26:41) Invitation to Salvation and Closing

Concluding, the speaker highlights God's mercy and free gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8), calling all to repent (Acts 17:30) and avoid hell. Addressing the likely Christian audience, he invites anyone struggling with life's storms to turn to Jesus, the rock, and seek congregational support or prayer. He thanks the audience, ending with an evangelistic appeal to embrace Jesus' foundational strength, ensuring salvation and peace in this life and beyond.