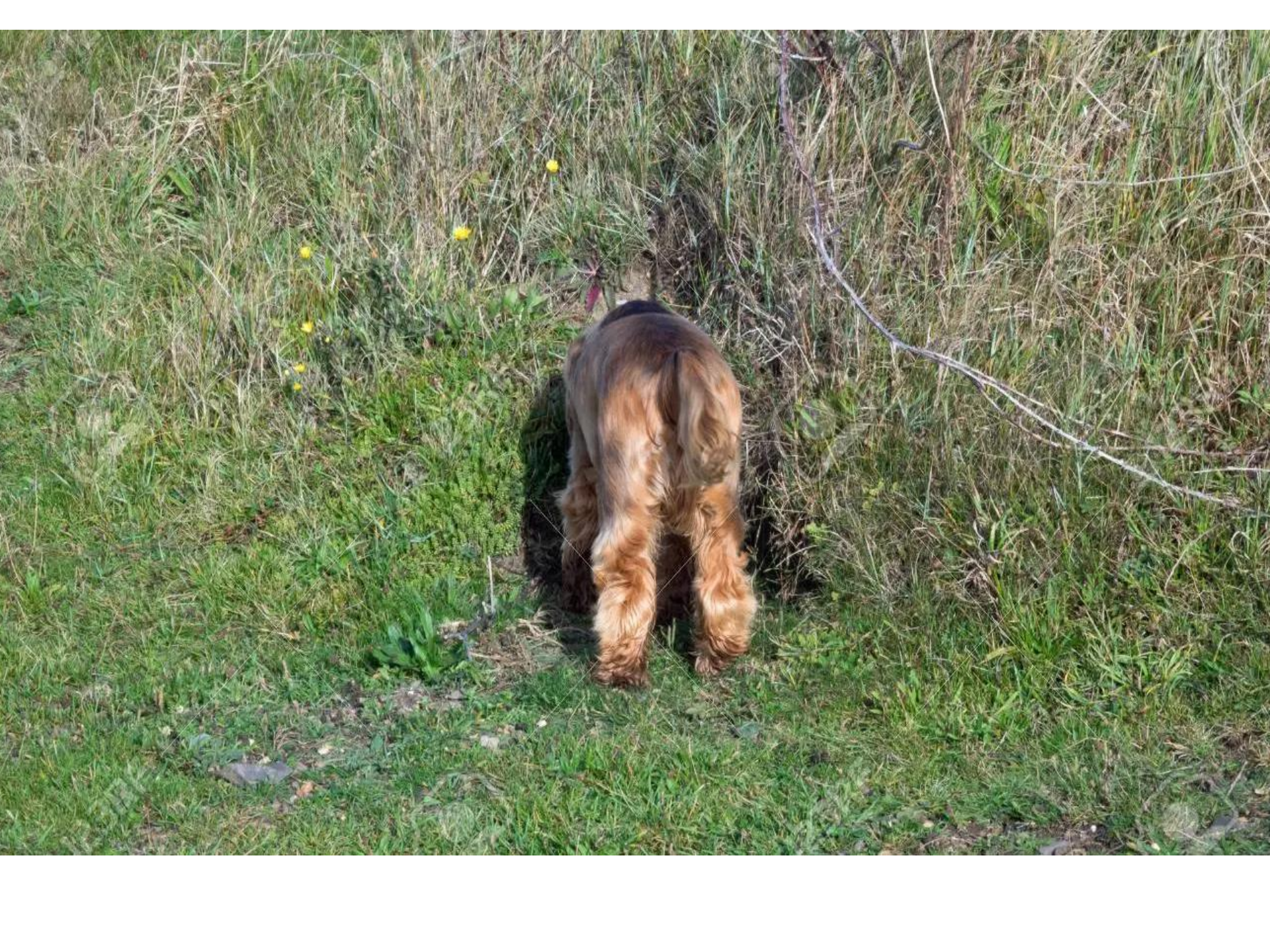




Step Into The River





Started Innocently Enough

- **11** Now faith is the [a]assurance of *things* [b]hoped for, the [c]conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the men of old [d]gained approval.
- Hope – elpis – all the amazing promises of God that He is in the process of releasing into our lives. Not all realized yet, but we are rock-solid certain they are true and will all be ours!



So Faith Is ...

- Assurance and Conviction – you might say the Manifestation – of a life firmly built on that solid, unshakeable hope
- Faith defines and directs how we LIVE everyday because our lives are informed by and guided by that hope
- Kind of like in James 3:18 where he says I will show you my faith by my works
- If our hope is real, our response to it is called faith, and that faith is revealed in how we think and feel and act and LIVE



Enter the Rabbit Hole

- ³ By faith we understand that the [e]worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- Someone tell me what this verse means to you
- Clearly, we are supposed to take on faith that God spoke the world into existence out of nothing – Right? Take THAT Evolution!
- Only, that seems like more of a proposition to accept, not a hope to surrender to



So, I Started Sliding Deeper

- KJV - ³ Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- NET - By faith we understand that the worlds^[c] were set in order at God's command^[d] so that the visible has its origin in the invisible.
- **NIV** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.



Last Resort–Amplified Version

- By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.
- More words, not necessarily more insight. How does this inspire actions of trust and obedience built on our unchanging hope in God's promises??



And Then I Got a Clue

- The Gk word here that is translated World or Universe, is also – in maybe one translation – translated as “age or ages”
- The Word is “Aion” and do you know what it DOESN'T MEAN?
- It has nothing WHATSOEVER to do with planets or the universe or anything related with creating PHYSICAL/MATERIAL REALITY.
- Could have used kosmos, but didn't



AION - NAS Concordance

Word Origin

from a prim. root = continued duration

Definition

a space of time, an age

NASB Translation

age (20), ages (6), ancient time (1), beginning of time (1), course (1), eternal (2), eternity (1), ever* (2), forever (27), forever and ever (20), forevermore (2), long ago (1), never* (1), old (1), time (1), world (7), worlds (1).



Falling Faster and Faster Now

- Evidently, AION is somehow related to time or the passage of time or to things that occur during the passage of time that general involve unimaginably long durations
- The truth is, I was starting to discover that, while this word is an important Gk word, it is about a zillion applications and it is a richer and deeper word that can possibly be effectively into English



Ola! Olam

- And then I came across a discussion of a Hebrew word – OLAM – and things started getting clearer
- The Hebrew word '*olam*' means "to indefinite futurity," that is, "for as far into the future as anyone can imagine." For example, when at the dedication of the ark in Jerusalem David tells the people to "remember [God's] covenant for ever" and that it is an "everlasting covenant," he is using the word in both cases.



But WAIT, There is MORE!

- Olam can also indicate “from as long ago in the past as anyone can imagine.” Wisdom says of herself in [Proverbs](#), “I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth was.”
- Sometimes the word is used in both senses at the same time. We see this usage in [Psalm 90](#), “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”



But, IF YOU CALL RIGHT NOW

- Here is the BIG DEAL, Starts with the Septuagint, the first translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek, =/- 200 BC
- We learn a lot about what Hebrew words meant from seeing what GK word was chosen back then, AND vice-versa, we learn more about some GK words by seeing which ones were used to translate Hebrew



Drum Roll, Please

- AND, in the Septuagint, every single time the translators needed to translate OLAM into GREEK – Every. Single. Time. – and there 100s – the word chosen from Greek to represent this amazing Hebrew word is:
- AION – Which tells us that essentially this word has to do with something God started as far back as before the beginning of time, and is **flowing forward eternally beyond the limits of time as we understand it**



More Fun Facts

- In the Old Testament, OLAM is always used to describe the eternal nature of the Kingdom of God
- In the NT, Aion is used that way, too, like in Revelation 11:15 where we hear loud voices declaring “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His [j]Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” – AION!



Rabbit Hole Insights

- It seems clear to me that Aion is somehow describing the ever flowing, ever active move of God across eternity
- Aion = root name of a lot of rivers in Europe, because they keep flowing; keep going and keep moving – Stratford on Avon
- Prepared (arranged or set in place) by the word (rhema, i.e. spoken) Word of God in a way can't comprehend and never saw coming



And NOW It Makes Sense

- By faith, we surrender to the eternal plan and purposes of God that He has put in place from the foundation of the world, knowing it will FLOW on forever, fueled by His power and presence for His glory – created out of nothing but the substance of his Glory
- we can't see or understand, we can only trust Him and surrender to Him, which is something that I can definitely commit my life to EVERYDAY

And It Looks Like This





In Hebrews 11 He is Asking

- That we will step into the River of His Life and Love and let Him carry us, trusting in His eternal plan, His tender love, and His faithfulness
- And that is absolutely what **FAITH IS AND HOW IT CHANGES OUR LIVES**



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY