



# Step Into The River

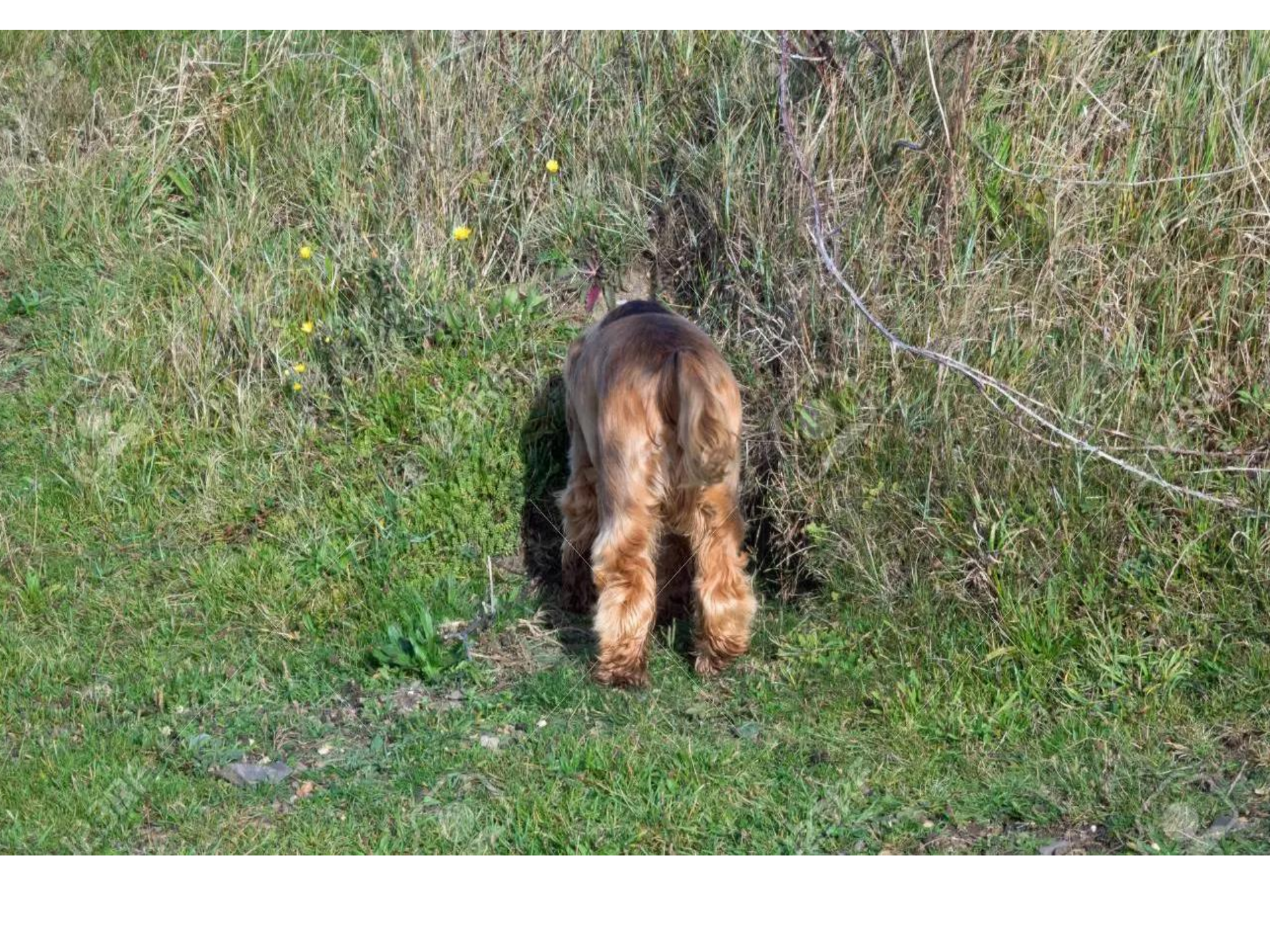
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# 10/16/2018

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- Stennis awoke around 6 pm
- Tried to rescue items from his deck
- His wife and mr. Bo came to help
- Mostly just cutting stuff loose
- Giant wave hit the deck and swept him and his wife out into the lake
- Flash of warmth – I'm gonna see my momma
- Voice of God said run! Mr. Bo?





# Started Innocently Enough

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- **11** Now faith is the [a]assurance of *things* [b]hoped for, the [c]conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> 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 ...

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- 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

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- <sup>3</sup> 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

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- KJV - <sup>3</sup> 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<sup>[c]</sup> were set in order at God's command<sup>[d]</sup>, 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

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- 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

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- 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

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## ***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

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- 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

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- 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!

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- 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 Psalms 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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 [i]Christ; and He will reign *forever and ever.*” – ages to the ages .. AION!





# Rabbit Hole Insights

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- 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 rivers keep flowing; keep going and keep moving – Stratford on Avon



# Heb 11:3 Now reveals

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- 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.
- By faith we step into these aions Prepared (arranged or set in place) by the word (rhema, i.e. spoken) Word of God in a way we can't comprehend and never saw coming



# And NOW It Makes Sense

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- 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

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- 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**



# Thus says THE LORD

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- I am Coming in like a flood, a mighty rushing river that is making all things new
- I am doing away with and will no longer be found in old structures and processes
- My kingdom is not about structures and processes, My kingdom, comes by my power for my glory
- The age of relying on buildings and programs is passing away
- You are my building, you are my body, I desire to live in you and flow through you You are my body and you are my building – I am inhabiting you and empowering you and releasing you into a greater vision and purpose – your vision is nice but it is too small, and too often you pursue it to serve you instead of me
- Old structures and processes have been holding you back and distracting you and anchoring my body to a thing that is not me, it is substitute for a lifegiving relationship with me

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- Trust me now and step into the mighty rushing river of my presence and power when it comes, it is coming and is now HERE and HAPPENING – it is flowing fast and releasing irresistible power as it comes – just like a mighty flood, and it is awesome and terrible and scary and unprecedented in its scope and impact, Trust me and you will be carried along into the new thing that I am doing. Trust me and flow with me and do not be afraid that you do not know where it is going and you can't control or predict what is happening next. Trust me and surf the wave of my glory and power into the new thing that is coming
  - But know this, the mighty rushing river of my spirit is coming, and whoever does not step into and surrender to it and flow with me, whoever clings to old things and tries to tweak old structures and processes and visions in hopes of preserving them because they are all you have ever known will be swept away and your name and your work – which was not wrong and was even good for a time – will be no more.



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- 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