



Episode #01

Is the Bible Really Trustworthy...!? (What the Bible ACTUALLY Says) | The Watered Root w/ Pastor Steve



Episode Summary

Is the Bible truly trustworthy, or is it merely a collection of ancient religious writings shaped by history, politics, and human agendas? In this opening episode of *The Watered Root Podcast*, Pastor Steve tackles one of the most foundational and most questioned issues of the Christian faith: whether Scripture can be trusted as God's Word.

Rather than relying on blind faith or emotional appeals, this episode walks carefully through what the Bible actually claims about itself, how it was preserved, and why those claims matter for everyday believers. You will explore common objections to the reliability

of Scripture, examine how Jesus viewed and used the Old Testament, and consider whether the Bible stands up to historical and rational scrutiny.

This episode lays the groundwork for the entire podcast. If the Bible is trustworthy, then it becomes the authoritative foundation for faith, doctrine, and Christian living. If it is not, everything else begins to unravel. These show notes are designed to help you slow down, engage Scripture thoughtfully, and begin developing a confident, grounded trust in God's Word.

Primary Scripture Passages

The following Scripture passages are referenced throughout Episode 01. Together, they form the biblical foundation for examining the trustworthiness of Scripture, its historical reliability, and its divine origin.

Gospel and Historical Accounts

- Luke 1:1–4
- Luke 2
- Matthew 1
- Luke 3
- Matthew 26

Messianic Prophecy

- Micah 5:2
- 2 Samuel 7:12–13
- Isaiah 11:1
- Psalm 22:16
- Zechariah 11:12
- Isaiah 53:9

Apostolic Testimony and Authority of Scripture

- 2 Peter 1:16–21

- Hebrews 4:12

Why These Passages Matter

These texts highlight the unity of Scripture across centuries, the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus Christ, the role of eyewitness testimony, and the living, active nature of God's Word. Together, they reinforce why Christian belief must be rooted in Scripture rather than personal preference, tradition, or cultural pressure.

Scripture & Teaching Notes

1. Scripture as a Historical Record, Not Blind Faith

Luke 1:1–4; Luke 2; Matthew 1; Luke 3

The Bible does not ask to be trusted without evidence. Luke opens his Gospel by explaining that he investigated eyewitness accounts carefully and recorded them in an orderly way so that the reader could know the certainty of what they were taught. The Gospel writers anchor their accounts in real people, real places, and real historical moments.

The genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke root Christ in verifiable history. They are not mythological devices, but public records meant to be examined. Christianity begins with the claim that God acted in history, not merely in ideas or spiritual experiences.

2. Fulfilled Prophecy and the Identity of Jesus

Micah 5:2; 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Isaiah 11:1; Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 11:12; Isaiah 53:9

The Old Testament contains specific, detailed prophecies written centuries before the birth of Jesus. These prophecies point to the Messiah's lineage, birthplace, manner of suffering, and ultimate victory.

Jesus does not accidentally resemble these prophecies. He fulfills them in ways no human could orchestrate, including the circumstances of His death and burial. This convergence of prophecy strengthens the claim that Scripture is unified and divinely guided rather than a disconnected collection of religious writings.

3. Apostolic Testimony and Divine Inspiration

2 Peter 1:16–21

Peter makes it clear that the apostles were not inventing stories or promoting religious myths. They testified to what they personally witnessed. Scripture, according to Peter, did not originate from human will but from men who spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

This passage addresses both historical reliability and divine inspiration. The Bible is trustworthy because it is grounded in eyewitness testimony and because God Himself superintended its message.

4. The Living and Transforming Power of God's Word

Hebrews 4:12

Scripture is not only true. It is active. God's Word penetrates the human heart, exposes motives, and calls people to repentance and faith. The Bible does not merely inform the mind. It confronts the soul.

This living quality of Scripture explains why it continues to challenge, comfort, and transform people across cultures and centuries. A purely human document cannot do this.

5. How Jesus Viewed Scripture

Matthew 26

Jesus consistently treated Scripture as authoritative, trustworthy, and fulfilled in Himself. Even under arrest and facing death, He submitted to the authority of God's Word rather than resisting it.

If Jesus trusted Scripture, quoted Scripture, and fulfilled Scripture, then Christians cannot treat the Bible casually or selectively. Our view of Scripture ultimately reflects our view of Christ.

Summary Teaching Emphasis

Throughout Scripture, belief is grounded in revelation, history, and divine action. The Bible presents a coherent story centered on God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ. Trusting Scripture is not a rejection of reason but a response to God's self-disclosure.

If Scripture is trustworthy, it becomes the foundation for faith, doctrine, and Christian living. If it is not, then Christianity itself loses its grounding.

Going Deeper Study Guide

Episode 01: Is the Bible Really Trustworthy?

This study guide is designed to help you slow down, engage Scripture thoughtfully, and reflect on what it means to trust the Bible as God's Word. Whether you work through this individually or with others, take time to read, reflect, and pray through each section.

1. Read the Scriptures Carefully

Begin by reading the following passages. Do not rush. Pay attention to what each text claims about Scripture, history, and God's work.

- Luke 1:1–4
- Micah 5:2
- 2 Samuel 7:12–13
- Isaiah 11:1
- Psalm 22
- Isaiah 53
- 2 Peter 1:16–21
- Hebrews 4:12

As you read, ask yourself:

- What is the author claiming to be true?
- Is this presented as myth, opinion, or historical testimony?
- What does this passage say about God's involvement in revelation?

2. Key Reflection Questions

Take time to answer these honestly. Write your responses if possible.

Before this episode, what shaped your trust in the Bible most? Personal experience, upbringing, tradition, or evidence?

1. Why do you think questions about the Bible's trustworthiness are so common today?

2. How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen or challenge your view of Scripture?
3. Why does eyewitness testimony matter when evaluating biblical claims?
4. If Scripture is trustworthy, what authority should it have in your life?

3. Understanding Prophecy and Fulfillment

Many Old Testament passages were written centuries before the birth of Jesus, yet they point forward with remarkable clarity.

Reflect on these questions:

- What details in the Messianic prophecies could not reasonably be orchestrated by human planning?
- Why would God choose to reveal His plan gradually through history instead of all at once?
- How does the unity of Scripture across centuries impact your confidence in the Bible?

4. Scripture as Living and Active

Hebrews 4:12 describes God's Word as living and active. This means Scripture does not merely inform us. It confronts us, exposes us, and transforms us.

Consider:

- When has Scripture challenged something in your thinking or behavior?
- Are there areas where you resist Scripture's authority?
- What might it look like to submit fully to God's Word rather than treating it selectively?

5. Application and Prayer

Close your study with prayer.

Ask God:

- For humility to submit to His Word

- For wisdom to discern truth in a skeptical culture
- For confidence to trust Scripture even when it challenges you

Pray specifically that your belief about the Bible would move beyond information into obedience.

Optional Group Discussion

If using this guide in a group:

- Share one passage that stood out to you and why
- Discuss how trusting Scripture changes daily decision making
- Encourage one another to continue reading the Bible with intentionality

Final Thoughts

If the Bible is truly God's Word, then trusting it is not optional. It becomes the foundation for belief, doctrine, and Christian living. This episode invites you not only to examine Scripture intellectually, but to respond to it faithfully.

Links, Resources & Support

Links Mentioned in This Episode:

The Pour Over

<https://www.thepourover.org>

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