

November 30, 2025

23 and Me Says Jesus Is Legit (Matthew 1:1-17, 23)

Warmup: Imagine your great-great-grandkids reading your name in a list someday. What nickname or fun fact would you want them to know about you?

READ Matthew 1:1-17, 23

- As the author of this Biblical gospel, who is Matthew's audience?
- Why would a Jewish audience in 60 A.D. be captivated by Matthew 1:1-17, and an American audience be indifferent?
- If someone says that Christianity is made up, what facts could you show them?

BONUS Question: Why does the genealogy Matthew records begin with Abraham rather than Noah?

REFLECT

- What is God teaching us through the fact that Israel's matriarchs are not mentioned in Matthew's genealogy, while women from Canaanite, Jerichoite, Moabite, and Hittite backgrounds are included?
 - How is the gospel message given in the genealogy Matthew provides?
- In what ways does the gospel message offer peace? How did the Pax Romana clash with the peace Christ brought?
- Just as Christ's genealogy shaped the lives of His family and His people, how has your genealogy shaped who you are today?

RESPONSE

- Advent celebrates the prophetic fulfillment of Jesus' birth. What is another significant component of celebrating Advent? (We also celebrate this truth during communion).
- How will you live in the Good News of Advent concerning your hopes and dreams?
- How will these truths shape your hope for your family?
- With whom can you share the hope and peace Jesus gives you?

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."