



# ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29 -  
DECEMBER 24  
2015

## Guide and Reading Schedule

Compiled by Joshua Hawkins

[www.joshuahawkins.com](http://www.joshuahawkins.com)

### What is Advent?

*Advent* is a term originally derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". During Advent, the Christian church remembers Jesus' first coming and joyfully anticipates His second. From His lowly birth in a feed trough to His humble life among the people of Israel, Advent is a focused time to remember God's humility and faithfulness and to "fan the flame" of expectation for Jesus' return to gloriously rule the earth from Jerusalem and to be worshipped as LORD by every living creature.

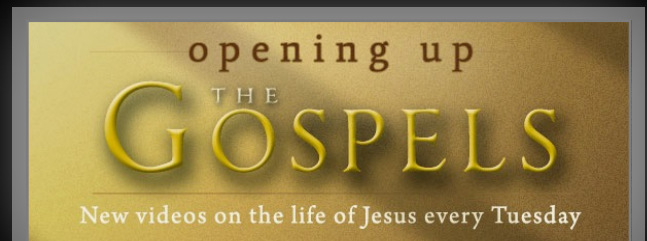
### When does Advent begin?

The Advent season officially commences on the fourth Sunday (Advent Sunday) before Christmas and continues until Christmas Eve or Day. In 2013, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st and ends on Tuesday, December 24th.

### How do I celebrate Advent?

Throughout history Christians have celebrated Advent through a variety of traditions. The Advent calendar is probably the most secularized Advent tradition (though probably originally conceived by German Lutherans) and counts down 24 days until Christmas, anticipating the final day which represents the first coming of Christ. Advent candles are also popular in celebrating the season, the symbol being borrowed from passages like Matthew 4:16 and John 1:4-9 where Jesus is described as the Light of the World. Some burn one candle a little bit each day to anticipate the continual burning of it on Christmas day. Others use a wreath with four or five candles, lighting one candle each Sunday during Advent until Christmas Eve or Day when the final "Christ candle" is lit, representing Christ's arrival.

Whether or not you celebrate with a tradition, the heart of Advent is to *adore and treasure Jesus* by reflecting on His life and looking forward to that which He has promised to do when He returns. Unto that end, this brief guide provides a schedule of Scripture readings from the Gospels and from the Old Testament as well as several recommended short videos from the *Opening Up the Gospels* series by Joshua Hawkins to aid you in your meditation on the birth of Jesus.



*Opening Up the Gospels* is a video series narrating through the life of Jesus as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. View all of the episodes and subscribe to the mailing list:

<http://www.joshuahawkins.com/gospels>

Follow Josh Hawkins on Twitter (@joshprays) for tweets on #Advent and the birth of Jesus

# ADVENT

## 2015 Reading Schedule

Read each passage, pray and journal privately, or discuss with friends and family. The suggested *Opening Up the Gospels* episodes are short videos to aid your meditation on the story of Jesus' birth and can be watched from any modern smartphone, tablet, or computer at <http://www.joshuahawkins.com/gospels> Each episode is about 10 minutes long.

Day	First Coming	Second Coming / Prophetic Literature	Opening Up the Gospels episode
Sunday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2	Genesis 3, Numbers 24	
Monday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	John 1	Deuteronomy 32-33	<a href="#">#11, "Zechariah and Elizabeth"</a>
Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Luke 1-3	1 Samuel 2; 2 Samuel 7	<a href="#">#12, "Zechariah and the angel Gabriel"</a>
Wednesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Luke 4-6	Psalms 2, 24	<a href="#">#13, "Announcing the Birth of Jesus"</a>
Thursday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Luke 7-9	Psalms 47, 48	<a href="#">#14, "Mary and Elizabeth"</a>
Friday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 10-12	Psalms 72, 75	<a href="#">#15, "The Birth of John and the Scandal in Nazareth"</a>
Saturday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 13-15	Psalms 89	<a href="#">#16, "Joseph's First Dream"</a>
Sunday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16-18	Psalms 110, 118	
Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2, John 1	Isaiah 2, 4	<a href="#">#17, "The Census and the Journey to Bethlehem"</a>
Tuesday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 19-21	Isaiah 9, 11	<a href="#">#18, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 1"</a>
Wednesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 22-24	Isaiah 24, 25	<a href="#">#19, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 2"</a>
Thursday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	John 1-3	Isaiah 32, 35	<a href="#">#20, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 3"</a>
Friday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	John 4-5	Isaiah 40, 53	<a href="#">#21, "The Shepherds, Part 1"</a>
Saturday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	John 6-7	Isaiah 62, 63	<a href="#">#22, "The Shepherds, Part 2"</a>
Sunday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	John 8-9	Jeremiah 25, 33	
Monday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2, John 1	Daniel 2, 7; Joel 2-3	<a href="#">#23, "The Early Days of Jesus"</a>
Tuesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	John 10-11	Zephaniah 3; Habakkuk 3	<a href="#">#24, "Simeon, Part 1"</a>
Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	John 12-13	Zechariah 13-14; Malachi 3-4	<a href="#">#25, "Simeon, Part 2"</a>
Thursday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	John 14-15	Matthew 24-25	<a href="#">#26, "Anna"</a>
Friday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	John 16-17	1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 12	<a href="#">#27, "The Visit of the Magi, Part 1"</a>
Saturday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	John 18-19	2 Timothy 3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4-5	<a href="#">#28, "The Visit of the Magi, Part 2"</a>
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	John 20-21	2 Thessalonians 2-3	
Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew 1-2	1 Peter 1; 2 Peter 3	<a href="#">#29, "The Flight to Egypt"</a>
Tuesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	John 1	Revelation 5-6	<a href="#">#30, "The Childhood of Jesus"</a>
Wednesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	John 22	Revelation 14-15	<a href="#">#31, "Jesus at Twelve"</a>
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2	Revelation 19-22	<a href="#">#32, "Eighteen Years of Silence"</a>

Follow Josh Hawkins on Twitter (@joshprays) for tweets on #Advent and the birth of Jesus