



# ADVENT DECEMBER 1-24 2013

## Guide and Reading Schedule

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### 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.

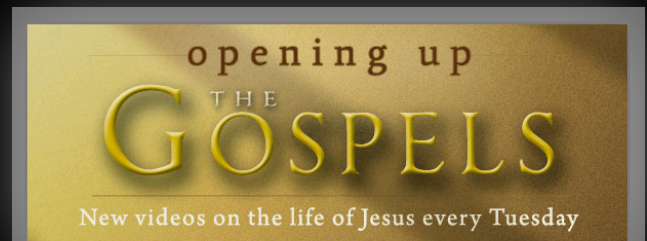
### When does Advent begin?

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

## 2013 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	<i>Opening Up the Gospels</i> episode
Sunday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew 1-2	Deuteronomy 32-33	#13, "Announcing the Birth of Jesus"
Monday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	John 1	Psalms 2, 24	
Tuesday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Luke 1-3	Psalms 47, 48	
Wednesday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 4-6	Psalms 72, 75	#14, "Mary and Elizabeth"
Thursday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 7-9	Psalms 110, 118	
Friday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 10-12	Song of Songs 5, 8	
Saturday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 13-15	Isaiah 2, 4	#15, "The Birth of John and the Scandal in Nazareth"
Sunday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16-18	Isaiah 9, 11	
Monday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2, John 1	Isaiah 24, 25	
Tuesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 19-21	Isaiah 32, 35	#16, "Joseph's First Dream"
Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 22-24	Isaiah 40, 53	
Thursday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	John 1-3	Isaiah 62, 63	
Friday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	John 4-5	Jeremiah 25, 33	#17, "The Census and the Journey to Bethlehem"
Saturday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	John 6-7	Daniel 2, 7; Joel 2-3	
Sunday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	John 8-9	Zephaniah 3; Habakkuk 3	
Monday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2, John 1	Zachariah 13-14; Malachi 3-4	#18, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 1"
Tuesday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	John 10-11	Matthew 24-25	
Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	John 12-13	1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 12	
Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	John 14-15	2 Timothy 3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4-5	#19, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 2"
Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	John 16-17	2 Thessalonians 2-3	
Saturday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	John 18-19	1 Peter 1; 2 Peter 3	
Sunday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	John 20-22	Revelation 5-6	#20, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 3"
Monday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Matthew 1-2, John 1	Revelation 14-15	
Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2	Revelation 19-22	#21, "The Shepherds"

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