



# ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27 -  
DECEMBER 24  
2016

## 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 2016, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th and ends on Saturday, 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  
New videos on the life of Jesus every Tuesday

*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

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## 2016 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 27 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2	Genesis 3, Numbers 24	
Monday, November 28 <sup>th</sup>	John 1	Deuteronomy 17-18	<a href="#">#11, "Zechariah and Elizabeth"</a>
Tuesday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-3	Deuteronomy 32-33	<a href="#">#12, "Zechariah and the angel Gabriel"</a>
Wednesday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 4-6	1 Samuel 2; 2 Samuel 7	<a href="#">#13, "Announcing the Birth of Jesus"</a>
Thursday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Luke 7-9	Psalms 2, 24	<a href="#">#14, "Mary and Elizabeth"</a>
Friday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Luke 10-12	Psalms 47, 48	<a href="#">#15, "The Birth of John and the Scandal in Nazareth"</a>
Saturday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Luke 13-15	Psalms 72, 75	<a href="#">#16, "Joseph's First Dream"</a>
Sunday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2	Psalms 89	
Monday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	John 1	Psalms 110, 118	<a href="#">#17, "The Census and the Journey to Bethlehem"</a>
Tuesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16-18	Isaiah 2, 4	<a href="#">#18, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 1"</a>
Wednesday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 19-21	Isaiah 9, 11	<a href="#">#19, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 2"</a>
Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 22-24	Isaiah 24, 25	<a href="#">#20, "The Birth of Jesus, Part 3"</a>
Friday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	John 1-2	Isaiah 32, 35	<a href="#">#21, "The Shepherds, Part 1"</a>
Saturday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	John 3-4	Isaiah 40, 53	<a href="#">#22, "The Shepherds, Part 2"</a>
Sunday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2	Isaiah 62, 63	
Monday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	John 1	Jeremiah 25, 33	<a href="#">#23, "The Early Days of Jesus"</a>
Tuesday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	John 5-6	Daniel 2, 7; Joel 2-3	<a href="#">#24, "Simeon, Part 1"</a>
Wednesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	John 7-8	Zephaniah 3; Habakkuk 3	<a href="#">#25, "Simeon, Part 2"</a>
Thursday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	John 9-10	Zechariah 13-14; Malachi 3-4	<a href="#">#26, "Anna"</a>
Friday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	John 11-12	Matthew 24-25	<a href="#">#27, "The Visit of the Magi, Part 1"</a>
Saturday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	John 13-14	1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 12	<a href="#">#28, "The Visit of the Magi, Part 2"</a>
Sunday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew 1-2	2 Timothy 3-4	
Monday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	John 1	1 Thessalonians 4-5	<a href="#">#29, "The Flight to Egypt"</a>
Tuesday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	John 15-16	2 Thessalonians 2-3	<a href="#">#30, "The Childhood of Jesus"</a>
Wednesday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	John 17-18	1 Peter 1; 2 Peter 3	<a href="#">#31, "Jesus at Twelve"</a>
Thursday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	John 19-20	Revelation 5-6	<a href="#">#32, "Eighteen Years of Silence"</a>
Friday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	John 21-22	Revelation 14-15	<a href="#">"Biblical Foundations of Messiah and Christ"</a>
Saturday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 1-2, John 1	Revelation 19-22	

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