



ADVENT

November 30 -
December 24

2025

Guide and Reading Schedule

Compiled by Joshua Hawkins

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What is Advent?

Advent is a term originally derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". For centuries, disciples of Jesus have celebrated Advent to remember his first coming and joyfully anticipate his second. From his lowly birth in a feeding trough to his humble life among the people of Israel, Advent is a focused time to remember the God of Israel's faithfulness and to stir our expectation for Jesus' return to gloriously rule the earth from Jerusalem and fulfill his covenantal promises to Israel.

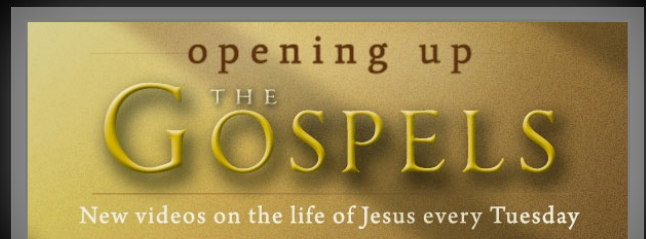
When does Advent begin?

The Advent season officially commences on the fourth Sunday (Advent Sunday) before Christmas and continues until Christmas Eve or Day. In 2024, 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 the Messiah. 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 small amount 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 his arrival.

Whether or not you celebrate with a tradition, the heart of Advent is to reflect on the ministry of Jesus and to look forward to his coming reign from Jerusalem. 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.



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 more at:

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

Follow Josh Hawkins on Twitter (@joshuathawkins) for more resources

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2025 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 at <http://www.joshuahawkins.com/gospels>. Each episode is about 10 minutes long. You may also be able to click the episode link for each day directly from this guide.

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

Follow Josh Hawkins on Twitter (@joshuahawkins) for more resources