



I Wonder as I Wander
Advent 1
John 14.1-3

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

The Point: Scripture points us to remember the first coming and anticipate with preparation, the second.

The Question: Is observing Advent beneficial?

The Father promised the first Advent

The Son promised the second Advent

The Holy Spirit guides us to the second and last Advent.

I wonder as I wander, and the more I wander, the more I wonder—at his love.

Advent is a little-known and rarely celebrated season in the Restoration Movement. Outside of the liturgical churches, it is not thought of much. So what is the purpose of the four weeks of Advent? From 300 to the 1600s, the church would spend 28 days in fasting and prayer preparing for the second advent by remembering the first advent. Advent means "to come." Jesus came once, and he will come again!

Promised by the Father, Jesus came in humility. This is the chord the second verse and third verse of our carol are trying to strike about the first advent. True, the verses are mixed up in facts about the night Jesus was born: cow's stall, wise men, and farmers visiting; sometimes art and contextualizing occur, so it is best to stick to the Scripture. Nevertheless, the third verse reminds us that this infant is the king of all. The Son lived a fully human life without the privilege of royalty. His royalty was restored at his ascension.

Jesus promised a second advent—he would come back. Oh, I wonder as I wander about that second advent. Do you long for it? The promise is, I will go and prepare a place for you and come back. Jesus did not leave us as orphans; he left us with a large growing family; 120 have become millions. You can find spiritual family in every country and most cities. Some are in hiding, but I believe the Spirit will guide you to them for your need or theirs. Jesus left this world to let his kingdom grow, and he comes back to take us to heaven to witness the destruction of the old world and the creation of the new one where we will receive our reward.

Jesus tells the ones at his Last Supper that they know the way to go and tells them about the purpose of the Holy Spirit a few moments later. The Spirit guides the Apostles in teaching, preaching, and writing the Word. **The Holy Spirit guides the believer through the word** to seek, find and live a life that leads to the house Jesus is building us. All who seek find and those who seek their own way get lost. *And you know the way to where I am going.* John 14.5 You might not know it intellectually, but your spirit understands, and the Holy Spirit will guide you.