



INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

The New International Version translation is used for the questions.

1. Read Romans 11:1-36. Is God working through the nation of Israel today like he did in the Old Testament? Who is God primarily working through today to influence the world? Is he finished with Israel as his chosen people?
2. Pastor Rick said that there were three reasons why God has set Israel aside at this point in history, what were they? The tribulation, explained in the book of Revelation, is God's judgement on Israel for their rejection of Christ, what happens to the Jews during the tribulation? When does God once again work through the Jews as his chosen people?
3. What did Pastor Rick say would happen in Israel before the Lord comes back at the end of the tribulation? Does what is happening in Israel mean that the rapture is definitely going to happen soon?
4. Read Romans 11:33-36 again. Should we be concerned if there are things that God ways and does that we do not understand? Has there been things in your life that God has allowed to happen that you do not understand why? How do you respond when that happens? Based on what this chapter teaches us, how should we respond?
5. Pastor Rick said that this chapter gives us seven ways that we can see God's faithfulness to us, what are they? What does it mean to "be faithful"? Read 1 Corinthians 4:1,2. Paul says that we have been given a trust, what is required of someone who has been given a trust? What does it mean for us to be faithful to God like he is to us? What are some ways that we show our faithfulness to God?

ANSWERS

1. *Romans explains how God has placed Israel “on the shelf” at this point and is working primarily through the church instead. Chapter 11 explains that there will come a point in the future when God again begins to work through Israel as his chosen people.*
2. *The three reasons God has set Israel aside are: a. They worshipped false Gods and rejected the Messiah; b. In order to start the church and have the Gentiles be saved; and c. As a way of making Israel desire God again through their jealousy of God using the Gentiles instead of Israel. During the tribulation, the Antichrist will attempt a genocide of the Jews which will make Hitler’s attempt seem trivial. Jesus refers to this time in Matthew 24:15-22 when he warns the Jews to flee when they see the Antichrist set himself up as god in the temple (the abomination that makes desolate) See 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4. God will rescue a “remnant” of the Jews who accept Christ as savior at the end of the Tribulation and then he again places them as his chosen people during the millennium, after the tribulation.*
3. *Pastor Rick said that there would be a war in Israel before the Lord comes back, and we see that most of the countries of the world are now lining up against Israel and that a war could be imminent. Although it seems that the conditions in the Middle East are lining up so that the events of the tribulation could happen, we have no way to know for sure when the rapture will happen. It could be tomorrow, it could be 100 years from now, only God knows for sure. What Jesus taught was that we should live as if it will happen today.*
4. *We should be glad that there are things about God that we cannot understand, because if we could understand everything about God, he would just be another human. There are many things about God and what he does that we cannot understand because we are not omniscient like he is. He sees everything and is working everything out exactly as he wants it to. When you do not understand, you should respond with trust and faith because you know the character of God and you know how much he loves you.*
5. *The seven ways we see God’s faithfulness are: a. God keeps every promise he makes; b. God’s character prevents him from being unfaithful; c. God finishes what he starts; d. God strengthens those who belong to him; e. God leads us from temptation; f. God gives unlimited forgiveness; and g. God uses suffering to bring people to salvation and us to maturity. To be faithful means to be reliable, consistent, and to never quit. God tells us that we are to be faithful to him in everything we do. To be faithful to God is to be reliable, consistent, and never quit on our service to him. Faithfulness to God is demonstrated when we keep all and any commitments we make to God and to others. Do we do what we say we will, or only if it is easy and convenient? Faithfulness is the number one characteristic that God is looking for in us and is something we all are able to do.*

