

## Answers: Lesson Eleven: CLI Leadership Bible Study

*How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ*

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 11: KNOWING GOD'S WILL

#### **Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will** (Day One) *Choosing God's Will*

**Definition:** The noun will is defined as the mental faculty (ability) by which a person decides upon and controls his own actions or those of others. It is the part of the mind that makes decisions. Will is also defined as that which is desired or determined; something that someone wants to happen.

#### **Read Genesis 2:15-17 and answer questions 1-5:**

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:15-17*

1. Who took Adam, the man, and put him in the Garden of Eden (v.15)?

God, LORD, or LORD God

2. Did Adam have a choice about being placed in the Garden? Yes **No** (Circle One)

3. Did Adam have a free choice to follow God's will in the Garden? **Yes** No (Circle One)

4. What was God's command and will for Adam (v. 16-17)?

*Adam could eat from any tree in the garden; but he was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*

5. What was the consequence of not following God's command, or His will (v.17)?

Death

#### **Read Joshua 24:15 and answer questions 6-7:**

*But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.* Joshua 24:15

6. What choice did the Israelites have?

To serve God or serve false gods (idols)

7. How did Joshua use his will in this verse?

To serve God, the LORD.

*But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.*

2 Chronicles 26:16

8. Read 2 Chronicles 26:16. King Uzziah started out seeking God and His will for the people. God had given him success and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt. But after Uzziah became powerful what happened?

He became prideful and unfaithful to God. He entered the temple against God's will with the intention of burning incense on the altar of incense.

*They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."*

2 Chronicles 26:18

9. Read 2 Chronicles 26:18. What seems to be the motivation of the priests who confronted Uzziah?

They wanted God's laws obeyed (i.e. God's will) and confronted the king in this sin. Also concerned for welfare of their king.

*King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house--leprous, and excluded from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.* 2 Chronicles 26:21

10. Read 2 Chronicles 26:21. What were the consequences for King Uzziah seeking his own will and not God's?

King Uzziah lost his leadership position to son Jotham. Had leprosy, lived in separate house and excluded from temple.

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**Personal Application:**

11. Consider how the use of your free will may affect others and outline any changes that you plan to make in your life:

**Personal Answer**

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**Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will** (Day Two) Forsaking Our Will

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."* Isaiah 30:21

**12.** Read Isaiah 30:21. What is God saying to the Israelites (and to us) about knowing His will?

**God promises He will direct us in His will. He will show us the right path, no matter the situation.**

**Definition:** God's *decretive will* defines His ability to decree (order) whatever He desires to happen. It is sometimes called God's absolute or sovereign will and refers to the hidden or secret things of God.

*The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand."* Isaiah 14:24 (Sworn is defined as taking an oath or unwavering resolve.)

*I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.<sup>11</sup> From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.* Isaiah 46:10-11

**13.** Read Isaiah 14:24 and 46:10-11. What is God saying in these verses?

**Whatever God desires and plans, it will happen.**

**Definition:** God's *perceptive will* describes the way He directs humans in the duties that belong to us. This would include the teachings and commandments in the Bible. This is the part of God's will that He desires for mankind but that He allows to be disobeyed.

*Perceptive will* is also known as God's revealed will. In other words He makes His divine truth known in order for us to choose correctly. The Bible is a record of God's desires and plans for us. He wants us to know how to follow Him in all matters, great or small.

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 and answer questions 14-16:**

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;<sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,<sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;<sup>6</sup> and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.<sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.* 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

**Definition:** Sanctification (sanctified) refers to both the believer's position of being "holy" in Christ and the process of becoming holy (transformed into His image). Believers' are holy in that we are "set apart" or "consecrated" for God's holy use or purpose.

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14. Fill in the blank. It is God's will that you should be (v. 4:3a)\_\_\_\_\_sanctified\_\_\_\_\_

15. The Apostle Paul teaches believers to live a sanctified life. List his instructions in this regard:

- (1. **Avoid sexual immorality** (v. 4:3b)
- (2. **Control own body in a way that is holy and honorable** (v. 4:4)
- (3. **Do not wrong or take advantage of brother (or others)** (v.4:6)

16. Fill in the blank. Paul compares lustful passion to not knowing (v. 4:5)\_\_\_\_\_God\_\_\_\_\_

17. How does God's will and sovereignty function with our free will and autonomy (self-rule)?

Various ways of saying this but essentially God has complete control over all and yet has given us certain freedoms within His created order. We can choose to follow God and His ways or not. However, He can and will use other people to establish His purpose and can overrule our choice at times.

**Read Mark 14:34-36 and answer questions 18-21:**

*"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.<sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:34-36*

**Definition:** The cup in this passage symbolizes God wrath poured out in divine judgment against sinners (Psalm 75:8; Habakkuk 2:16; Revelation 14:9-10)).

18. In your own words explain how Jesus felt the night before he was crucified (v. 34)?

Personal answer based on Jesus' soul being overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.

19. What did Jesus do when He was overwhelmed to the point of death (v. 35)

He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

20. In His prayer to the Father, what three things did Jesus say to Him (v. 36)?

- (1. **Everything is possible for you**
- (2. **Take this cup from me**
- (3. **Yet, not what I will, but what you will**

21. If faced with intense suffering, will you say: "*Yet not what I will, but what you will?*"  
Yes No Not sure (Circle One) Explain your answer and share your thoughts on this question:

Personal Answer

22. How might we pray for you in regard to following God's will in your life?

Personal Answer

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23. **Personal Application:** Write Mark 14:34-36 from memory without notes:

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.<sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

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**Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will** (Day Three) Rewards for doing God's will

*Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."* Matthew 12:49-50

**Read Matthew 12:49-50 and answer questions 24-25:**

24. Jesus says: "For whoever does the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_ **Father** \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

25. What point do you think Jesus is making?

Whoever listens and obeys God the Father has a closer personal relationship with Jesus, just like a family member.

26. What apostle also tried to keep Jesus from God's will (Matthew 16:21-23)?

Peter

**Matthew 16:21-23** <sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

27. Can you share a time when someone tried to keep you from God's will because he or she thought they were trying to protect you?

Personal Answer

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

**28.** Read John 15:5. How do you bear much fruit (have meaningful Kingdom work)?

In order to bear fruit, we must remain in Jesus and He in us. (Living in Jesus and doing what He desires. Obedience to Jesus is also being obedient to the Father's will. They are one.)

**Read Romans 8:28-29 and answer questions 29-30:**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:28-29*

**29.** When you choose God's will for your life, what promise or assurance do you have when things look bleak? (v. 28)

That in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

**30.** According to v. 29 what is the good that God will work out for those who love Him?

That we should be conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

**31.** According to Jeremiah 29:11, the LORD has plans to \_\_\_\_\_ **prosper** \_\_\_\_\_ you and not to \_\_\_\_\_ **harm** \_\_\_\_\_ you, plans to give you hope and a \_\_\_\_\_ **future** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:** Read and mediate on Proverbs 11:18; Isaiah 40:10; Matthew 5:11-12; Ephesians 6:7-8; Hebrews 11:24-26 and Revelation 22:11-13. Answer questions 32 and 33:

**32.** Summarize what God taught you about rewards from these verses:

**Personal Answer**

**33.** Share with another Christian what you learned about rewards. What was his or her response?

**Personal Answer**

**Proverbs 11:18** The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

**Isaiah 40:10** See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

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**Matthew 5:11-12** Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Ephesians 6:7-8** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

**Hebrews 11:24-26** By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

**Revelation 22:11-13** Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." <sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

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**Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will** (Day Four) Resources for Discerning God's will

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**Personal Application:**

**34.** Do you sincerely want to do God's will? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain:

**Personal Answer** (Bible Minister: Please make appropriate comments on your Learner's answers)

**35.** What do you think would keep you from totally embracing God's plan for your life?

**Personal Answer**

**36.** How do you think asking the question, "Who will receive the glory for my actions?" will help you remain in God's will?

**Personal Answer**

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*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*

**37.** Read Philippians 4:6. Why are you not anxious about seeking God's will?

**Personal Answer**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--  
John 14:16*

**38.** Read John 14:16. When you are seeking direction and have to make a decision, who is your constant, powerful and permanent helper (Acts 1:8)?

**Holy Spirit**

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

**39.** Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. God equips us for every good work through Scripture

**40.** What if a person, within your center of influence, came to you and said, "I have become a Christian but my spouse refuses to believe in Christ. I think God is leading me to divorce my spouse and become a missionary." What advice would you give this person?

**Personal Answer but - God will not lead someone against His Word. God has already spoken through the apostle Paul on this subject (1 Corinthians 7:12-17). Would also tell the person to continue praying and seeking God.**

**1 Corinthians 7:12-17** <sup>12</sup> To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. <sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.* Colossians 1:9

**41.** Read Colossians 1:9. Paul is asking God to fill believers with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding

**42.** Are you confident that you are in God's will at the current time? Why or why not?

**Personal Answer. Bible Minister, please make encouraging and appropriate comments.**

**Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will** (Day Five) Exercising your free will

**ANSWERS:** Leadership Bible Study Lesson 11 Knowing God's Will

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2*

**Definition:** As a verb, will means to exercise or put into effect one's willpower. One's willpower is a mixture of determination and self-discipline that enables a person to do something no matter the difficulties. Recall, the will is the command post of an individual.

**43.** Read Romans 12:1-2. How can you use your *free will* to know God's will?

Personal Answer along these lines. I can determine how I think and act in any given situation. I can decide to renew my mind. I can take my old patterns of ungodly living and replace them with God's truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). When one desires and determines to be shaped and changed by God, he or she will be able to discover and interpret His will.

*The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:<sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:1-2*

**44.** Read Jonah 1:1-2. How do you know that God's will was revealed clearly to Jonah?

Because the Bible says that the word of the LORD came to Jonah and records His clear instructions.

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Jonah 1:3

**45.** Read Jonah 1:3. Jonah knew God's will for him and yet, what did he do?

He ran away.

**46.** How do you think you would respond if the LORD commanded you to arise, go to Iraq and begin preaching against the wickedness of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda<sup>1</sup>?

Personal Answer

*He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." Jonah 4:2*

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<sup>1</sup> **Al-Qaeda** (also **al-Qaida** or **al-Qa'ida** or **al-Qa'idah**) (Arabic: القاعدة *al-qā'ida*, Translation - *The Base*) is an international alliance of militant Sunni Jihadist organizations. Its roots can be traced back to Osama Bin Laden and others around the time of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989.<sup>[1]</sup> Al-Qaeda's objectives include the end of foreign influence in Muslim countries and the creation of a new Islamic Caliphate. Al-Qaeda has been labeled a terrorist organization. Source: Wikipedia Online

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**47.** Read Jonah 4:2. What is the reason Jonah gives for running away from the LORD's will? (If you are not familiar with the whole story of Jonah, read all 4 chapters.)

**Jonah did not want God to be merciful to Israel's enemy. He did not want his enemy to repent from his preaching. He wanted disaster to strike the Ninevites.**

Nineveh was located in Assyria, an enemy of Israel. Jonah was not happy that God would show mercy and goodness to their enemies. When God called Jonah, he knew that God might relent from pouring out His wrath on the Ninevites, even though they were a cruel and ruthless people.

**48.** Do you think Christians struggle with showing love and mercy to their enemies? Yes No Sometimes (Circle one)

**Personal Answer**

**49.** What are some ways that *you* could help yourself and others to have the compassion and love for enemies?

**Personal Answer**

From the Lesson: Remembering how much we have been forgiven is always a good place to start (Luke 7:47). When we recognize the goodness and mercy of God in our own lives and how we have been rescued from eternal damnation, our hearts begin to soften towards others. We can also pray for ourselves and others. *O Lord help me to have Your love, compassion and mercy. Make me a forgiving person. Make everyone I know be conformed to Jesus! Amen.*

In order to be like Jesus and do what He would do, we need to spend time in the four Gospels. They are clear and straightforward. Do you ever wonder what we, as the church would look like if we focused all of our energy in following Jesus?

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**Personal Application:**

Mediate on Psalm 37:23-24, 55:22, 147:11; Romans 8:26-27, 12:1-2 and Jude 1:24.

**50.** After mediating on the above verses what would you tell someone who is overly anxious about missing God's will?

**Personal Answer but: God loves you and as you seek and fear Him, He will not allow you to fail or miss His purpose or will for your life.**

**Psalm 37:23-24** If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; <sup>24</sup> though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

**Psalm 55:22** Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

**ANSWERS:** Leadership Bible Study Lesson 11 Knowing God's Will

**Psalm 147:11** the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

**Romans 8:28-29** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Jude 1:24** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--  
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**Personal Application:** Read Matthew 6:10-11 and 2 Chronicles 26:1-23. Ask God to speak to you through these verses and answer the following questions:

**51. What did God say to you?**

**Personal Answer.** Bible Minister, please make encouraging and appropriate comments.

**52. What did you say to God in response?**

**Personal Answer.** Bible Minister, please make encouraging and appropriate comments.

**Matthew 6:9-10-11** "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**2 Chronicles 26:11-23** Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials. <sup>12</sup> The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600. <sup>13</sup> Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies. <sup>14</sup> Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army. <sup>15</sup> In Jerusalem he made machines designed by skillful men for use on the towers and on the corner defenses to shoot arrows and hurl large stones. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful. <sup>16</sup> But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. <sup>17</sup> Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. <sup>18</sup> They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God." <sup>19</sup> Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging

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at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. <sup>20</sup> When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him. <sup>21</sup> King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house--leprous, and excluded from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land. <sup>22</sup> The other events of Uzziah's reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. <sup>23</sup> Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, "He had leprosy." And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.

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- End Answers Lesson 11 -

**Next: Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness**

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