

God's commands to governments and rulers

Introduction

I have written many papers that contain denunciations of modern governments. Indeed, this is necessary for a Christian just as it was for the many prophets of the North and South Kingdoms of Israel. We are to be witnesses of God's law and a testimony to the divine will. People should look at Christians to see what the divine perspective is on anything, including rulership. The weathervane of the times should be found in godly Christians that know God's will.

This paper intends to demonstrate the important tasks and character of rulers. I hope to show, from multiple Biblical texts, what God expects of national leaders. My subjective comments apply to the current and recent governments of the UK.

A word to those in government: if you ignore any of these characteristics and rule unrighteously, God will condemn you at the Day of Judgment and eternally punish you for your sins against him and the people you should have served.

The relevance of these texts

Many non-Christians will say that these Bible verses are redundant and have no place in directing the ethics of rulers. I deny this charge for these reasons.

Natural laws

These directions are entirely in keeping with natural law. They are regarded by everyone with any moral sense around the world as good principles. They are in keeping with the conscience that God has placed in every man. To deny these principles is to affirm wickedness.

They are in tune with traditional Common Law

These principles are in full agreement with the standards laid down in British Common Law, which includes the Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the Coronation Oath and the MP's oath. Such principles go back to Saxon kings that laid down the first English laws, like Alfred the Great and Edward the Confessor, which were based on the Bible.

God is the Creator

All men are subject to the God that made them and set them in their nation. This means that all men are responsible to obey God and are subject to his will. All citizens of all lands are required to submit to the God who made them. Thus they should seek out his will in order to be a good servant of the Most High.

The Bible is God's word

The way to find out what God requires of man is to go to his own word and study it. The Bible is that word. In the Bible any man can find what God requires for obedience.

Thus the only sure way to know what is right and ethical is to study God's own word where he sets out his law (his will for mankind) in clear terms.

Do not follow the wisdom of the world but trust in God's word

You shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety. **Lev 25:18-19**

For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD. **2 Chron 28:19**

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish *in* the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him. **Ps 2:10-11**

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O LORD. **Ps 9:17-20**

For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and *those* nations shall be utterly ruined. **Isa 60:12**

Ephraim is oppressed *and* broken in judgment, because he willingly walked by *human* precept. Therefore I *will be* to Ephraim like a moth, and to the house of Judah like rottenness. ... For I *will be* like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, *even* I, will tear *them* and go away; I will take *them* away, and no one shall rescue. **Hos 5:11-14**

Who *is* wise? Let him understand these things. *Who is* prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the LORD *are* right; the righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. **Hos 14:9**

For the statutes of Omri are kept; all the works of Ahab's house *are done*,¹ and you walk in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing. Therefore you shall bear the reproach of My people. **Mic 6:16**

'I have cut off nations, their fortresses are devastated; I have made their streets desolate, with none passing by. Their cities are destroyed; *there is* no one, no inhabitant I said, "Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction" -- so that her dwelling would not be cut off, *despite* everything for which I punished her. But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds. Therefore wait for Me', says the LORD, 'Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination *is* to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all my fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.' **Zeph 3:6-8**

Principles

- Rulers must observe God's law.
- Human philosophy (precepts) must not contravene God's laws.
- Economists and jurists must comply with God's law.
- If governments disobey God's law he will judge them severely.

Judge impartially

You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. **Exod 23:6**

You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbour. **Lev 19:15**

¹ Prosperous but ungodly and oppressive kings.

You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment *is* God's. **Deut 1:17**

You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality. **Deut 16:19**

Cursed *is* the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow. **Deut 27:19**

Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who *is* with you in the judgment. Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do *it*, for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes. **2 Chron 19:6-7**

How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; free *them* from the hand of the wicked. **Ps 82:2-4 [This is addressed to rulers.]**

Divination *is* on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment. **Prov 16:10**

Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. **Prov 20:28**

It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, *or* to overthrow the righteous in judgment. **Prov 18:5**

These *things* also *belong* to the wise: *It is* not good to show partiality in judgment. He who says to the wicked, 'You *are* righteous', Him the people will curse; nations will abhor him. But those who rebuke *the wicked* will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. **Prov 24:23-25**

Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. **Isa 1:17**

You rulers of the house of Israel: *Is it* not for you to know justice? **Mic 3:1**

Now hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity ... **Mic 3:9**

These *are* the things you shall do: speak each man the truth to his neighbour; give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace. **Zech 8:16**

Principles

- Justice must never be perverted. That is, it must not be corrupt, impartial, bigoted, and must comply with God's law. Letting a guilty person go free is as serious a threat to society as condemning an innocent person.
- Justice must not depend upon a person's wealth for fairness.
- Justice must be founded in the truth.
- The poor and needy must be helped to get true justice.
- Failure to ensure true justice results in a curse from God.

Defend the poor and needy

You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. **Exod 23:6**

Do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed. **Ps 10:18**

Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; free *them* from the hand of the wicked. **Ps 82:2-4** [This is directly addressed to rulers.]

When they [the poor] are diminished and brought low through oppression, affliction and sorrow, he pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness *where there is no way*. **Ps 107:39-40**

Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them. **Prov 22:22-23**

Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. **Prov 31:9**

Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. **Isa 1:17**

Your princes *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come before them. Therefore the Lord says, The LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, 'Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, and take vengeance on My enemies'. **Isa 1:23-24**

Thus says the LORD: 'Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.' **Jer 22:3**

Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you. In you they have made light of father and mother; in your midst they have oppressed the stranger; in you they have mistreated the fatherless and the widow. **Ezek 22:6-7**

The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. **Ezek 22:29**

Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. **Dan 4:27**

Hear this word, you ... who oppress the poor, who crush the needy ... The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: 'Behold, the days shall come upon you when He will take you away with fishhooks, and your posterity with fishhooks. You will go out *through* broken *walls*, each one straight ahead of her, and you will be cast into Harmon', says the LORD. **Amos 4:1-3**

Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.' **Zech 7:9-10**

Principles

- The poor, needy, weak and vulnerable must never be oppressed by the state.
- The state must never allow other parties to oppress the poor and needy.
- Overtaxing the poor is wrong.
- The genuine poor and needy must be supported until they are back on their feet again.
- Those who afflict the poor and needy will face God's severe judgment.

Avoid falsity

You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. **Exod 23:1**

Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. **Exod 23:7**

You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. **Lev 19:11**

Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely. **Lk 3:14**

Principles

- God hates wickedness based upon lies.
- The state must never lie to the people.
- The state must never promote policies that are based on lies, obfuscation or deliberate error.

Take no Bribes

You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous. **Exod 23:8**

You shall not ... take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just. **Deut 16:19-20**

Your princes *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. **Isa 1:23**

Woe to men ... who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, *so* their root will be as rotteness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. **Isa 5:22-24**

Principles

- The acceptance of bribes in high office is forbidden.
- National governments doing deals with each other that overturn Common Law and righteousness is a form of bribery and is forbidden.

No oppression

You shall not oppress a stranger. **Exod 23:9**

Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I *am* the LORD your God. **Lev 25:17**

[The wicked man] has oppressed *and* forsaken the poor; he has violently seized a house which he did not build. **Job 20:19**

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honours Him has mercy on the needy. **Prov 14:31**

He who oppresses the poor to increase his *riches*, *and* he who gives to the rich, *will* surely *come* to poverty. **Prov 22:16**

A ruler who lacks understanding *is* a great oppressor, *but* he who hates covetousness will prolong *his* days. **Prov 28:16**

Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: and look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter -- on the side of their oppressors *there is* power, but they have no comforter. **Eccles 4:1**

Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. **Isa 1:17**

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: 'Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant'. **Isa 30:12-13**

Thus says the LORD: 'Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.' **Jer 22:3**

'Your eyes and your heart *are* for nothing but your covetousness, for shedding innocent blood, and practising oppression and violence.' Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: 'He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey, dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem'. **Jer 22:17-19**

'They do not know to do right,' says the LORD, 'Who store up violence and robbery in their palaces'. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'An adversary *shall be* all around the land; He shall sap your strength from you, and your palaces shall be plundered'. **Amos 3:10-11**

Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity! **Hab 2:12**

Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city! She has not obeyed *His* voice, she has not received correction; she has not trusted in the LORD, she has not drawn near to her God. **Zeph 3:1**

Principles

- Oppression is iniquity.
- Any form of oppression by the government is forbidden.
- There must be no oppression of foreigners, the poor, the weak, the vulnerable or the elderly. This oppression can take the form of overtaxing, discrimination, violence, imprisonment, defrauding,² forced medication, stealing houses during financial crashes, and many other forms.
- Oppression in the form of foreign military interventions is forbidden.
- Governments that build up their nation upon war are cursed by God.

Do not support the rich

The wicked in *his* pride persecutes the poor; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy *and* renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*; God *is* in none of his thoughts. **Ps 10:2-4**

He who gives to the rich, *will* surely *come* to poverty. **Prov 22:16**

The profit of the land is for all. **Eccles 5:9**

² NB the example of Roosevelt making it illegal for anyone to privately own gold in the New Deal and forcing elderly savers to hand over their gold or face imprisonment. This was nothing but theft.

The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes: 'For you have eaten up the vineyard; the plunder of the poor *is* in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the faces of the poor?' Says the Lord GOD of hosts.
Isa 3:14-15

Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him, though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: afflicting the just *and* taking bribes. **Amos 5:11-12**

Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? **Jm 2:6-7**

Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!* Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. **Jm 5:1-6**

Principles

- The wealth of the nation must be equally divided amongst all people that produced it.
- Favouritism must not be given to the rich in dealing out government policies.
- Giving the rich tax breaks at the expense of the poor is forbidden.

Do not make evil alliances to wage unprovoked war against others

You shall not follow a crowd to do evil. **Exod 23:2**

Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. **Ps 1:1**

If sinners entice you, do not consent. **Prov 1:10**

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. **Prov 4:14**

He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.
Prov 13:20

Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'. **1 Cor 15:33**

Principles

- Those who follow the wicked counsels of others will face God's judgment.
- Following God's law, whatever the circumstances demanded by others, always results in blessing.
- Following wicked counsel will result in walking in the way of evil.
- Unwise relationships with wicked governments will bring corruption.

Make good laws

Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with You? They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood. **Ps 94:20-21**

He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike *are* an abomination to the LORD. **Prov 17:15**

God requires an account of what is past. Moreover I saw under the sun: *in* the place of judgment, wickedness *was* there; and *in* the place of righteousness, iniquity *was* there. **Eccles 3:15-16**

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **Isa 5:20**

Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, *which* they have prescribed to rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless. What will you do in the day of punishment, and in the desolation *which* will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory? **Isa 10:1-3**

You have wearied the LORD with your words; yet you say, 'In what way have we wearied *Him*?' In that you say, 'Everyone who does evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them', or, 'Where *is* the God of justice?' **Mal 2:17**

Principles

- Bad laws or laws that legalise unrighteousness show that a government has no relationship with God.
- Justification of the wicked and the condemnation of the just, alike, *are* an abomination.
- God will demand an account of the Day of Judgment for every single decision that politicians make.
- Those who make bad laws will be severely condemned.
- Laws must be based on righteousness (God's law).
- Ignoring God in politics will always result in the condemnation of hell.

Do not be wicked

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. **Prov 4:14**

It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness. Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right. **Prov 16:12-13**

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan. **Prov 29:2**

Woe to the wicked! *It shall be* ill *with him*, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. **Isa 3:11**

For the foolish person will speak foolishness, and his heart will work iniquity: to practice ungodliness, to utter error against the LORD, to keep the hungry unsatisfied, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. Also the schemes of the schemer *are* evil; he devises wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaks justice. **Isa 32:6-7**

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his chambers by injustice.
Jer 22:13

Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take *them* by violence, also houses, and seize *them*. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks; nor shall you walk haughtily, for this *is* an evil time'. **Mic 2:1-3**

Principles

- Politicians must be judged by high moral standards and not by situation ethics.
- The standard of righteousness required is God's law.
- Rulers must not form wicked alliances with other nations to wage war, instigate coups, destabilise sovereign nations or use illegal military interventions.
- Wicked decisions made by rulers will be accountable to God and will result in condemnation and judgment for the person who made the decision.

Be righteous

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. **Prov 25:5**

Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, *wich* they have prescribed to rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless. **Isa 10:1-2**

He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: he will dwell on high; his place of defence *will be* the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water *will be* sure. **Isa 33:15-16**

Principles

- Rulers are required by God to remove wicked counsellors from their midst.
- Governments must not make illegal, unrighteous laws.
- Rulers must be righteous, must act righteous and must rule in righteousness.

Do not make false promises; do not lie

You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. **Ps 5:6**

These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness *who* speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. **Prov 6:16-19**

The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counsellors of peace have joy. **Prov 12:19-20**

Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.
Prov 12:22

For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err, and *those who are* led by them are destroyed. **Isa 9:16**

With lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way.
Ezek 13:22

Woe to him who ... loads himself with many pledges? **Hab 2:6**

The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. **Rev 21:8**

The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. **Rev 22:15**

Principles

- It is characteristic of politicians to lie and distort the truth as a matter of course; yet all lying will be severely judged.
- All aspects of false speaking will be condemned by God: lying, obfuscation, distortion, misrepresentation, disinformation, propaganda and so on.
- False promises are an abomination to God.
- Deliberate deception is as bad as outright lying; it is evil.

Do not get drunk

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, *that* they may follow intoxicating drink; who continue until night, *till* wine inflames them! The harp and the strings, the tambourine and flute, and wine are in their feasts; but they do not regard the work of the LORD, nor consider the operation of His hands. **Isa 5:11**

Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink.
Isa 5:22

Principles

- Leaders need to keep a clear head; thus drunkenness is a great evil and is not consistent with ruling effectively. At times of unexpected crisis, a leader must be sober-minded (many politicians in power have been near alcoholics).

Do not be vain

Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as if with a cart rope. **Isa 5:18**

The LORD of hosts has purposed it, to bring to dishonour the pride of all glory, to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth. **Isa 23:9**

Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high. **Hab 2:9**

Principles

- With power comes the corruption of vanity; rulers must resist this.
- No decision must ever be made as a result of vanity.
- Vanity projects, at the taxpayer's expense, are forbidden.

God will bring rulers to account

All kings shall fall down before Him. **Ps 72:11**

All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. **Ps 86:9**

Kings shall shut their mouths at Him [Christ]; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider. **Isa 52:15**

Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD. **Ezek 38:23**

The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall put *their* hand over *their* mouth; their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of You. Who *is* a God like You. **Mic 7:16-18**

The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! **Rev 11:15**

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth. **Rev 11:18**

Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested. **Rev 15:4**

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings. **Rev 17:14**

Principles

- All rulers and governments throughout all history shall fall prostrate before God on the Day of Judgment and be judged, not only for their personal sins, but also for their sins of governing.
- In the Judgment, rulers will confess and glorify God.
- Rulers will understand that Christ is the Son of God and will worship him.
- Rulers will be terrified in the Judgment and will know the fulness of their evil deeds.

Temporal effects of bad government

He leads counsellors away plundered, and makes fools of the judges. He loosens the bonds of kings, and binds their waist with a belt. He leads princes away plundered, and overthrows the mighty. He deprives the trusted ones of speech, and takes away the discernment of the elders. He pours contempt on princes, and disarms the mighty. He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light. **Job 12:17-22**

He turns rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. **Ps 107:33-34**

When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, affliction and sorrow, He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness *where there is no way*. **Ps 107:39-40**

While the word *was still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses'. That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*. **Dan 4:31-33**

Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. **Acts 12:23**

Principles

- God sometimes sends drought and famine into lands that disobey him.
- Rulers that disobey God's law will be in contempt of God and wander in a wilderness. [This could take many forms, such as being struck with dementia, being ostracised by society etc.]
- Rulers that disobey God can be made dumb (e.g. suffer a stroke).
- God will judge bad counsel and evil judgments by making the judges look like fools.
- In some cases bad rulers will be plundered. [Note many once rich rulers ended up destitute.]
- Wicked policies will be brought to light; the truth will out!
- Sometimes God's temporal judgement comes upon a ruler severely (as Nebuchadnezzar) in the most frightful manner. [Even in recent history we have seen this happen.]

Eternal consequences of bad government

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, 'Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us'. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure. **Ps 2:1-5**

'You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **Ps 2:9-11**

The Lord *is* at your right hand; he shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, he shall fill *the places* with dead bodies, he shall execute the heads of many countries. **Ps 110:5-6**

To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment -- This honour have all His saints. Praise the LORD! **Ps 149:7-9**

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful. **Rev 17:12-14**

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. **Rev 17:19-21**

Principles

- God will execute bad rulers in his wrath. The heads of many nations will be condemned to fearful judgment.
- The rulers of the earth conspire to work against God.
- The Lord will execute wrath upon national rulers.
- Governments need to rule in the fear of the Lord.
- The elect will share in the condemnation of rulers on the Day of Judgment.
- In the war between the nation's rulers and Christ, the Lord is victorious.

Technical issues³

Politics

The study and practice of government and the exercise of authority on a national scale.

Modes of political activity are diverse, varying from dispute resolution and formal elections to the threat or use of outright coercion or force. The degree to which people can engage in political activity also varies in different countries: in open societies, individuals have more freedom to participate in the exercise of political power than in closed societies, where such power is restricted to small groups.

Jurisprudence

The theory, science or philosophy of law. Origin: early 17th century, from the Late Latin *jurisprudentia*, from Latin *jus, jur-* 'law' + *prudentia* 'knowledge'.

Thus jurisprudence (the basis of governing) is knowledge of the law. The ultimate law is God's law.

It entails philosophical and practical enquiry into law and legal systems and encompasses at least four broad types of study.

- First, study of legal systems to identify their constituents, such as rules, rights, and duties, and the bonds between them. There are different theories about the relationship between legal rules and morality (justice). [Legal positivists have regarded legal systems as distinct from systems of morality, while exponents of natural law have

³ I acknowledge a partial debt to the Oxford Dictionary here.

disagreed. Christians would teach that God's law is basically understood⁴ through the conscience and that this leads to natural laws.]

- Secondly, studies of the social impact of law in such fields as medicine, business, and the environment.
- Thirdly, studies of the behaviour and beliefs of legal officers and institutions (police, legislatures, and juries, for example).
- Finally, there are studies of all the social mechanisms associated with the law, in particular those maintaining order and resolving disputes.

Law

A collection of precepts creating obligations within the community to which they apply.

Laws include the power to issue:

- The infliction of punishment for violation.
- Conferring powers on individuals to enter contracts, form companies, transfer property, and make wills (typical subjects of private law), as well as defining social and power relationships (see jurisprudence; public law).

European law – secular in origin

Law may have originated from expectations about how disputes between individuals should be resolved, generating custom and eventually case law. The Roman legal theorists reduced these practices into systematic expositions which acquired their own authority. The 6th-century codification of Roman law, *Corpus Juris Civilis* ('Body of Civil Law'), forms the basis of the systems of most continental European countries, which are therefore called civil law systems. Many of these countries codified their laws during or after the Napoleonic era (1799–1815), but these codes retained many of the concepts of the civil law.

In recent years, a new body of supra-national law, which can bind states as well as individuals within states, has arisen within the EU under the *Treaty of Rome* and subsequent agreements.

English law – Christian in origin

The law in England developed independently from civil law influence, and it formed the basis of the common law systems, which evolved in countries colonised by Britain. Early Saxon kings like Alfred the Great and Edward the Confessor established laws based upon the Bible. These formed the early foundation of future laws and treaties like Magna Carta.⁵

The British Constitution rests upon Common law going back to Magna Carta, which was added to the Bill of Rights,⁶ the Coronation Oath and the MPs oath. These rights are added to British Case law to form a Constitution that has no single formal code document but a natural system of law.

⁴ Not unto salvation.

⁵ (Latin, 'Great Charter'.) The document that the English barons, aided by Stephen Langton, forced King John to seal at Runnymede on 15 June 1215. It was a charter of 61 or 63 clauses (the final clause is sometimes subdivided into three) covering a wide range of issues, mainly limiting the power of the king and establishing basic civil rights of citizens.

⁶ The English constitutional settlement of 1689, confirming the deposition of James II and the accession of William and Mary, guaranteeing the Protestant succession, and laying down the principles of parliamentary supremacy.

Case law

A legal system in which the reasoning employed by judges in reaching decisions in cases litigated before them constitutes a source of law by creating a precedent.

Legal systems that operate in this way, such as those in England and Wales and the USA, are sometimes called common law systems and can be distinguished from code-based or civil law systems such as are to be found in France and Germany, in which a judge's decision as to the scope of a principle in the code is incapable, on its own, of authoritatively defining or amending the principle for the future. Nevertheless, most systems have elements of both case law and codes.

Non-Christian nations

In many countries, the precepts of religious communities or of tribal custom govern various aspects of the lives of their members (particularly in family law), alongside the law of the state, resulting in legal pluralism (e.g. sharia Islamic law; Talmudic Jewish law).

International law

Besides the national law identified with particular states, a body of principles has developed over the years governing relationships between states. This includes the laws governing diplomatic relations and the observance of treaties. This customary international law has been supplemented in the 20th century by institutional mechanisms such as the International Court of Justice and the United Nations. International law binds states, but still lacks effective means of collective enforcement.

Civil law

The law governing the relations between private individuals or bodies, as opposed to criminal, administrative, or constitutional law (compare public law).

Areas covered by civil law include the principles governing commercial transactions, the settlement of disputes in the fields of tort⁷ and contract, and matters involving family, property, and inheritance. In England, civil and criminal cases are heard in separate courts of law.

Civil law systems are those in which Roman law has had a decisive influence on legal principles, methods, and terminology in the field of private law. They are to be found in Continental Europe, Latin America, and parts of Africa and Asia (in modified form). The great 6th-century codification of Roman law, the *Corpus Juris Civilis* ('Body of civil law'), forms the basis of such systems, which are therefore called civil law systems. The development of different nation-states in Europe led to the codification of laws into distinctive systems, most notably the Code Napoléon, adopted in France in 1804 (and in other European countries through Napoleonic expansion), and the *Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*, the German Civil Code, which came into force in 1900.

Civil law systems were subsequently exported through the process of colonial domination (for example, to some African countries and to Latin America) or imported out of respect for an intellectual tradition (for example, in Japan). An important characteristic of civil law codes is the division of private law into conceptual and organisational categories, such as the law of persons, property, obligations, and delict (tort), following the compilations of the Roman jurists. In principle, these codes require no interpretation, only application. In practice, interpretation and judicial development of the law are required. Judicial

⁷ A breach of duty, other than a breach of contract, leading to liability for damages or in certain circumstances an injunction.

reasoning is marked by an economy of style, using logical deductions from the principles deemed to underlie the code.

Although case law has acquired an important role as a source of law, there is no system of binding judicial precedent, as in common law systems.

Code Napoléon

(Or 'Code Civil') The first modern codification of French civil law, issued between 1804 and 1810, which sought, under the direction of J. J. Cambacérès, to reorganise the French legal system.

Napoleon himself presided over the commission drafting the laws, which drew on the philosophical heritage of the 18th-century Enlightenment, the articles of the laws representing a compromise between revolutionary principles and the ancient Roman (i.e. civil) law upon which much European law was based.

The code enshrines the principles of equality, the separation of civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions, and the freedom of the individual. With its compressed legislative style (the entire law of tort is set out in five articles), the *Code* represents perhaps the pinnacle of the codification achievement; versions of it were adopted in various European countries, and later spread through colonisation to Latin America and parts of Africa. It was revised in 1904, and has remained the basis of French private law.

In a reversal of English law, the Code Napoléon is based upon the suspect being guilty until proved innocent.

Roman law

The body of law developed in Rome between about 150 BC and 250 AD and codified by the Emperor Justinian in 529 in his *Corpus Juris Civilis* ('Body of Civil Law').

Roman law re-emerged in the 11th century as a popular subject of study in the Italian universities; later it evolved into the common core of the civil law (or Romano-Germanic law) family of legal systems, which established itself in the lands of the Holy Roman Empire.

The ideas of Roman law were dominant in the French Code Napoléon, adopted in 1804, and in later civil codes adopted in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. The codification movement appealed to the perceived higher rationality of Roman law as providing a logically consistent set of principles and rules for solving disputes.

Criminal law

That branch of the law concerned with wrongdoing against individuals, society, or the state, for which the state has power to seek punishment through the courts.

The major goals of criminal law are deterrence and punishment, while that of civil law is individual compensation.

Criminal offences consist of two distinct elements; the physical act (the *actus reus*, 'guilty act') and the requisite mental state with which the act is done (the *mens rea*, 'guilty mind'). For example, in murder the *actus reus* is the unlawful killing of a person, while the *mens rea* is 'malice aforethought' (the intention to kill or cause grievous injury).

The criminal law also details the defences that defendants may bring to lessen or negate their liability (criminal responsibility) and specifies the punishment that may be inflicted.

Public law

That part of the law that deals with the functions, duties, and powers of state bodies, the relationships between state bodies, and the relationships of state bodies with private individuals and organisations.

Public law includes rules of the constitution and administrative law, together with much of the law of civil liberties. It is recognised in many societies that the special functions of state bodies necessitate different treatment from that which citizens normally receive in the area of private law, which governs the relations between individuals or bodies. In the UK, there is less distinction between public and private law than in some other countries, such as France.

Examples of the failures of our government to obey God's principles

The rich

This government favours the rich claiming a false 'trickle-down' effect that the richer the wealthy get, the more benefits will come down to the poor. Experience has shown that this is false. Far from this happening, the reverse is true; there is an observable trickle-up effect. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer. This happened under the Labour, Coalition and Tory governments. The top 1% of society is fabulously rich while the rest are much poorer and the poorest classes are poorer today than they were in the 1980s. Wages have stagnated more than any other time in the last 100 years.

In addition, Britain is famous for its tax loopholes and tax avoidance schemes whereby the rich classes and wealthy global corporations can avoid paying tax legally. While working class people pay more than a third of their wages in tax (if you include stealth taxes) global corporations can pay less than 10% tax, or even less than 5%.

It is also a fact that if you are rich and can employ a QC lawyer you are likely to avoid any criminal charges against you, while the poor have no such option and sometimes not even legal aid.

Austerity measures

These measures, imposed by the Coalition and Tory governments since 2010, have dramatically damaged the poor, needy, sick, disabled, vulnerable, elderly, mentally incapacitated and all social services.

We could give statistics all day long: homelessness is at its highest ever level (one homeless man died on the pavement outside the House of Commons last week); there are more children in poverty than ever before; care for the elderly is in crisis; care for the mentally impaired is in complete collapse; the NHS is being slowly privatised and is currently in facing complete collapse. Council grants from government have been cut by 40%; this has led to multiple cancelled services with some councils only able to supply legally required services and one has just declared bankruptcy. This means: closed libraries, closed community centres, closed elderly and children projects, cancelled bus services – in some rural areas like Wales there has been a 20% cancellation of bus services meaning that poor people in rural areas cannot get to banks or food shops. I have explained this in great detail many times. It is an abomination to God.

There is enough money in the Exchequer to fix these problems but the money is being wasted on vanity projects (like HS2), unnecessary nuclear deterrents (Trident

replacement) and promises to the EU of £40 billion. Where are the rest of the savings going to?

National security

The armed services are being cut to the bone resulting in multiple warnings by former chiefs of the military of inability to function. We have only one operational warship and the new aircraft carrier has no functioning aircraft and can only be at sea a few days due to ongoing snagging. Multiple services are being cut, such as helicopter squadrons reduced by half.

Meanwhile, this downgrading of the army in particular is a preparation for the ongoing EU army to take the place of sovereign troops. Already Albania has allowed for EU military personnel to be used as border guards within Albania. This is the beginning of the EU army, long proposed as vital to EU consolidation.

Unrighteous rulers

God demands that ruling classes live righteous lives. Even the law demands certain standards of MPs, such as not lying to the House (which now happens all the time).

Instead of being righteous, scandals constantly emerge showing that those in power are guilty of heinous crimes or are complete hypocrites. MPs commit constant fraud on expenses and keep getting away with it. There is alleged evidence that there are high level paedophile rings in Westminster and a number of MPs have already been charged. MPs are involved in bribery and corruption, of which only a fraction becomes public knowledge.⁸ MPs are on the boards of corporations that stand to benefit from the privatisation of public services. Over fifty are on medical care boards that will profit from the privatisation (ongoing) of the NHS. Multiple MPs have been caught in sex scandals, one of which brought down a government in the past.⁹

Oppression

Under this heading comprise many actions of the government: the illegal Iraq War; the destabilisation of the Middle East; the illegal airstrikes on Libya; the illegal airstrikes in Iraq and Syria; the support of ISIS and other jihadi rebels; the illegal military occupation of Afghanistan and more.

We could add up the dead bodies after illegal military actions into the many millions. A million dead North Koreans. Over a million dead Iraqis from war and sanctions. Half a million dead Syrians. Thousands of dead Libyans. Hundreds of thousands of dead Yemenis. Hundreds of dead Somalis. Scores of dead Pakistanis. Thousands of dead in the break-up of Yugoslavia and the NATO bombing. America is guilty of far more dead innocents.

False promises

UK politicians tell so many lies and issue false promises that they have become a byword for liars. Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron told huge numbers of lies in the most wanton and flagrant fashion. In the 1990s Edward Heath openly admitted that he lied to the public in order to get Britain into the EEC in the early 70s. Manifesto promises are repeatedly broken sometimes blatantly.

⁸ E.g. the 'cash for questions' scandal.

⁹ The Profumo Affair of the early 1960s.

As a reward for lying to students that tuition fees would be abolished by the LibDems if in power [when they got into power they raised the fees to £9,000 from £3,000] Nick Clegg was made a Lord. Labour politicians promised that PFI contracts would give the country building projects at a discount; in fact they are costing the taxpayer billions more than if the government borrowed the money.

Cameron promised that, if in power, he would not institute a top-down reformation of the NHS at the very time that such a reform was already being written up under his leadership. It was implemented within two years of him getting to power and cost billions in order to destroy the NHS by stealth. Tories keep saying that they are ploughing billions into the NHS at the very time that they are actually cutting the budget by 3% per annum. Tories blame the hospital crisis on the elderly (who paid for it all their lives) when in fact the cause is that they have reduced the beds by 50% at a time when millions of immigrants have stretched the health service to the limit.

Theresa May promised, as Home Secretary, that she would get the immigration levels down to the tens of thousands. After seven years, immigration worsened. In one year alone the net immigration was over half a million people, which included returning ISIS rebels who were not put under surveillance. She also promised that cuts to police staff levels would not affect crime rates. This year violent crime has skyrocketed in every area; in some cases by 70%. Parts of London are now no-go areas at night for postal deliveries due to the violence in the streets. Violent crime is also noticeable in areas dominated by Muslims.

Bad laws

Where do we start, there are so many bad laws.

Gay marriage is an offence to God. Anti-discrimination laws and 'hate-crime' regulations mean that free speech is terminated and Gospel preachers are outlawed. A woman in Bristol lost her job as a teacher because she told a Muslim person that God loved her. Christian bakers are punished for refusing to bake a Gay cake but Muslim bakers that did the same are ignored. The proposed heterosexual civil partnership law is an attack on traditional marriage.

The anti-terror laws¹⁰ have meant that civil liberties have been attacked. All Britons are now spied upon in every way by GCHQ and the data is also passed to the US NSA. Habeas Corpus is under threat and is already inoperable in claimed terror offences. Trial by jury is constantly under threat and has been removed for certain cases. Legal aid has been savagely cut so that the poor cannot get legal representation.

Hundreds of thousands of EU regulations are still currently applicable to UK citizens, which control every area of life, from the shape of grocery produce to what you can say.

Bad laws are slowly turning Britain into a totalitarian fascist state: your movements are monitored, both in cars (registration identification) and on foot (CCTV); your correspondence is monitored; your social media is monitored; your personal data is mined and stored; your web browsing history is stored (all of it); your 'phone calls are all recorded and stored; your medical details are stored; your education record is stored; your political affiliations are recorded; your DNA is stored (in some cases); your fingerprints are stored (if they have been taken); your bank details and savings accounts are recorded and accessed by the government; your travel abroad is monitored; any criminal activity

¹⁰ Investigatory Powers Act. Edward Snowden stated, 'The UK has just legalised the most extreme surveillance in the history of western democracy. It goes further than many autocracies.'

(however minor) is recorded and stored, even from decades ago; your credit situation is monitored; and so on.

Conclusion

Some may say that this standard for public office is too high? Rubbish! It is the standard demanded by God's word. Those who wish to represent the people in government must be men of a high calibre.

Power corrupts and we constantly see that positions of ministerial power have led to many being thoroughly corrupt. Indeed, politicians are now a synonym for liars in the eyes of the people. Thus there can be no hope for people of bad or middling character; only people of strong, good character will do.

Therefore, do not vote on the basis of party politics but vote for people of good character. I have no hope for worldly governments whatsoever, but these principles remain true nevertheless.

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