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# **What is God Saying to the Nation?**

**Emmanuel Centre, London**

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**4<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

# Rules for the Conduct of Life

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**A Booklet composed by the Lord Mayor of London in 1740 and given to all Freeman of the City of London since that date.**

**The Booklet contains 36 Rules; most of which contain Quotations from the Bible.**

# Rules for the Conduct of Life

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## Rule 7

- **To live well is to be constantly obedient to God's commands, and never willing to do or desire that which is contrary to any of them. And in order to do this you must be careful to know what these commands are, and to form a right notion of every one of them; without which you cannot give a due obedience to them.**

# Rules for the Conduct of Life

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## Rule 7

- **For which reason, if you have had the advantage of a good education, it is your duty to make yourself thoroughly acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, where all God's commands are plainly recorded and set forth: if you are wholly illiterate, it is then your duty to make the best inquiry you can, what are the several things which God, your supreme Lord and Judge, requires from you.**

# Rules for the Conduct of Life

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## Rule 7

- ***"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, - if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."***
- **Philippians 4.8.**

# Rules for the Conduct of Life

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## Rule 36

- **Have God in all your thoughts: study to know and do His will, and be instant in prayer to Him, through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the assistance of his Holy Spirit to preserve and direct you.**

# The Prophet Micah

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- The Prophet speaks to the City (of London?) on the consequences of rejecting the truth
- Listen! The Lord is calling to the City - "Am I to forget, O wicked house, your ill gotten treasures? Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.  
*Therefore I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. You will eat but not be satisfied; your stomach will still be empty. You will store up but save nothing.*"
- Micah 6. 9 - 14

# The City of London

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- **The City of London used to be a byword for integrity based on biblical principles "a man's word is his bond". Today its reputation lies in the dust - disgraced by greed and avarice. Biblical truth has been abandoned.**
  
- **How Did We Get To This Place?**

# Five Major Institutions - 1

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- **All modern Urban Industrial Societies have Five Major Institutions that are fundamental to their social structure:**

- 1. THE FAMILY**

**Regulates generational relationships, personal identity and inheritance**

- 2. EDUCATION**

**Regulates the formal processes of socialisation and the transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next**

# Five Major Institutions - 2

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## 3. LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Regulates the generation of rules governing socially acceptable behaviour and their enforcement

## 4. RELIGION

Regulates the belief systems of society

## 5. THE ECONOMY

Regulates the system of exchange governing supply and demand

- **WHEN ANY ONE OF THE FIVE MAJOR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXPERIENCES CHANGE IT AFFECTS ALL THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

# The Social Revolution - 1

## THE FAMILY

- **1960s - Rise of the pop culture - move from age to youth**
- **1972 - Gay Manifesto: "The family as the main source of our oppression must be destroyed"**
- **Births Outside Marriage**
  - **1600s to the 1970s - average 5%**
  - **1980 - reached 10%**
  - **2007 - 50%**
- **Millions of children fatherless; do not know right from wrong**
- **Gangs are the inner-city child's substitute family - provide - identity, care, security.**

# The Social Revolution - 2

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## EDUCATION

- From 1970s - radical change of educational philosophy
- Teachers disempowered
- Rise in behavioural problems
- Christianity no longer taught in state schools

## THE LAW

- 1970s and 1980s - The Abortion Act, The Divorce Reform Act, The Children's Act - all had major effects upon the Family.

# The Social Revolution - 3

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## RELIGION

- From 1960s immigration brought other religions to Britain
- From 1960s church attendance has fallen annually
- 1955 - 75% of children attended Sunday Schools in Britain
- 2008 there are no Sunday Schools.

# The Social Revolution - 4

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## THE ECONOMY

- **Post-World-War II** the Economy has remained relatively stable - surviving Devaluation, the Big Bang, Stock Market Crash of 1987
  
- **But** warning signs ignored -  
Barings Bank 1995.

# Signs of Warning to the Nation

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- **Judgment begins at the house of the Lord**
- **July 1984** within hours of the installation of David Jenkins as Bishop of Durham
- Lightning Strike on York Minster
- Robert Runcie denied this was 'An Act of God'
- **November 1984**
- **Call for repentance and turning in Three Years**

# Signs of Warning to the Nation

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## Prophecy Given at the Pavilion Bath November 1984

- I will require the blood of this nation at the hands of my people who are not my people. Judgment will begin at the household of faith where there is no faith, says the Lord. Three years. I give you three years to get to your house in order or judgment will fall upon this nation and it will begin with my people who deny my word, who do not see the signs of the times, who are deaf to my words and blind to my deeds, and who do not bring my word to the nation in a time of great danger.

# 1987 Series of Warnings

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- **March 1987** - Channel Ferry 'Herald of Free Enterprise' sinks - 197 people die
- **August 1987** - Hungerford massacre - 14 people die
- **October 1987** - Hurricane destroys 16 million trees - closes The City of London
- **October 1987** - Stock Market Crash
- **November 1987** - King's Cross Station fire in London - 31 people die
- **December 1987** - Airliner crash on M1 motorway near Leicester - 47 people die

# 1988 Word from the Lord

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## Judgment now inevitable as all warnings ignored

- **The Economy** will be the last institution to be hit
- It will bring great distress upon the nation
- ***But the distress will bring a new openness to the gospel***
- **IF MY PEOPLE**, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my Face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7.14.**

# Opportunity for the Gospel

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- **September 2008 - Judgment Day dawns on the economy**
- ***BUT* already there is a new openness to the gospel**
- **God is calling his church to awake and seize the opportunity.**