



Global Watch Daily – November 18, 2025

A concise summary of major developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

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Israel & Jerusalem

The Israeli State Comptroller recently released a report revealing significant shortcomings in the government's handling of pay and protections for reservists, who are currently overburdened with military duties. This failure has raised concerns about the welfare and support of those serving in reserve capacities ([Times of Israel](#)). In a separate development, a former chief rabbi, along with other senior religious officials, is under suspicion for extortion, highlighting issues of corruption within religious leadership circles ([Times of Israel](#)).

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly welcomed a United Nations Security Council vote that backed the vision for Gaza previously proposed by former President Donald Trump, doing so in an English-only statement aimed at the international community ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, the Israeli government has demolished several Israeli homes in the Gush Etzion area, a move that has provoked strong reactions from settlers who feel betrayed by the decision ([Israel365 News](#)). New York City Mayor Eric Adams, currently visiting Israel, expressed his concern for the safety of Jewish children in New York, underscoring the broader anxieties felt by Jewish communities worldwide ([Israel365 News](#)).

In a notable personal decision, Rabbi Rami Goldberg announced his enlistment in the Israel Defense Forces at the age of 45, emphasizing a sense of duty during these critical times ([Israel365 News](#)). Additionally, Vilnius University has launched an innovative artificial intelligence tool capable of accurately reading handwritten Yiddish texts, a development that promises to preserve and deepen understanding of Jewish heritage ([JNS](#)). In the United States, a private school in Virginia has agreed to pay nearly \$150,000 to settle a lawsuit involving anti-Jewish hatred, reflecting ongoing challenges related to religious intolerance ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)



The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have intensified their operations against Hamas by destroying additional tunnels used by the militant group in Gaza. These efforts are part of broader preparations for future military operations aimed at securing the region ([Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, there has been a noted rise in Islamic State-linked activity within Israel and the West Bank, raising concerns about escalating security threats in these areas ([Long War Journal](#)).

Following recent elections in Iraq, the process of government formation has begun, marking a critical phase in the country's political stabilization efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). On the diplomatic front, Israel is reportedly considering a new defense agreement with the United States amid uncertainties over the future of military assistance, signaling ongoing strategic negotiations between the two allies ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Meanwhile, the former U.S. President Donald Trump is moving forward with plans to deepen American commitments to Saudi Arabia, despite criticism from some factions within his political base, highlighting the evolving nature of U.S. engagement in the Middle East ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

Harlem's spiritual and political community mourns the passing of Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid at age 74, a leader known for his influence in both religious and civic spheres ([Religion News Service](#)). In the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV has publicly embraced the radical challenge of Catholic social teaching, calling for concrete action on pressing social issues ([Religion News Service](#)).

At Rutgers University, a panel discussion on Hindu nationalism has sparked accusations of anti-Hindu bias, illustrating the complexities of religious inclusion and interfaith dialogue in academic settings ([Religion News Service](#)). Meanwhile, Christian resources continue to address contemporary challenges, including a biblical response to transgender theory and the promotion of Christian-made video games as tools for faith engagement ([The Gospel Coalition](#)).

Reports from the persecuted church include a deadly attack by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) on a hospital, resulting in at least 20 deaths, underscoring the ongoing violence faced by believers in certain regions ([International Christian Concern](#)). Additionally, a cathedral and Catholic school in Bangladesh were bombed, further illustrating the risks to Christian institutions worldwide ([International Christian Concern](#)).



Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Recent advances in biotechnology have demonstrated promising new methods to combat resistant lung cancer using CRISPR gene-editing technology, opening the door to more effective treatments ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have also uncovered a tiny ancient virus whose properties may help in the fight against antibiotic-resistant superbugs, offering hope in the global battle against infectious diseases ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovations in microscopy have led to the development of the “Great Unified Microscope,” which allows scientists to observe the micro and nanoworlds simultaneously, enhancing research capabilities across multiple scientific fields ([ScienceDaily](#)). In plant biotechnology, the engineering of viral vectors has improved the expression of recombinant vaccine proteins in plants, potentially streamlining vaccine production ([Nature](#)).

Additionally, secondary metabolites derived from *Streptomyces fungicidicus* have shown antiviral properties that may alleviate viral infections in crops such as zucchini, indicating progress in agricultural biotechnology ([Nature](#)). Another study has engineered hormonal crosstalk in rice plants to enhance serotonin and melatonin levels, with implications for both plant health and human nutrition ([Nature](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientific investigations into ancient viruses continue to reveal insights that may aid in combating modern superbugs, highlighting the intersection of virology and antibiotic resistance research ([ScienceDaily](#)). New findings have identified strange microscopic structures in the blood of Long COVID patients, which could help explain the persistent symptoms experienced by many ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Historical research has revisited a 14th-century narrative that misled the world about the Black Death, offering fresh perspectives on the pandemic’s impact and legacy ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published its annual epidemiological report on zoonotic influenza for 2023, providing updated data on animal-to-human transmission risks ([ECDC](#)).

Additionally, recent surveillance reports cover communicable disease threats from October 2025 and an overview of avian influenza cases from June to September 2025, underscoring ongoing public health vigilance in Europe ([ECDC](#)) ([ECDC](#)).



Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.4 earthquake near Indios, Puerto Rico, as well as more minor tremors in California near San Ramon and Cabazon, reflecting ongoing tectonic movements in these regions ([USGS](#)) ([USGS](#)) ([USGS](#)).

In space exploration, NASA continues to advance its Artemis lunar program. Brian Alpert, a key figure in the program, has been instrumental in applying lessons learned to advance lunar exploration efforts ([NASA](#)). The agency has also invited media to attend the upcoming launch of the crewed Artemis II moon mission, marking a significant milestone in human spaceflight ([NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Poland has reported sabotage of its rail infrastructure by Ukrainians allegedly working for Russia, a development that has heightened tensions in Eastern Europe ([Politico](#)). In the United Kingdom, concerns have been raised about Chinese agents using LinkedIn to target British Members of Parliament, reflecting ongoing espionage and influence operations ([Politico](#)).

In the United States, former President Donald Trump hosted the Saudi Crown Prince to discuss defense, artificial intelligence, and nuclear deals, signaling deepening ties between the two nations ([France24](#)). Meanwhile, Syria has opened its first public trial related to massacres that occurred in the Alawite coastal region following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime, an event of significant legal and political importance ([France24](#)).

European leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, are advocating greater digital sovereignty at an AI summit in Berlin, reflecting growing concerns about technological independence and security within the European Union ([France24](#)). Pope Leo XIV has also called for concrete actions on climate change at the COP30 conference, emphasizing the moral imperative of environmental stewardship ([France24](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists have uncovered an Assyrian inscription dating back to the First Temple period, providing valuable insight into the ancient history of Jerusalem and its surrounding regions ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). In the same area, the largest dam from ancient Israel has been excavated, revealing the advanced engineering capabilities of the



period ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Further discoveries include a rare gold coin of Egyptian Queen Berenice II, found within the City of David, which enriches understanding of the region's historical connections and trade ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)). Additionally, a rare coin from the Year Four Revolt has been unearthed in Jerusalem, shedding light on the Jewish revolts against Roman rule ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Reflection

The developments in Israel and Jerusalem reveal a nation facing internal challenges and external threats, yet also demonstrating resilience and a commitment to security and heritage. The report on reservists' pay and protections alongside the demolition of homes in contested areas underscores the complexities Israel navigates in balancing security, governance, and the rights of its citizens. The rise in militant activities and preparations for future military operations highlights ongoing regional instability that demands vigilance.

Global religious and geopolitical shifts continue to shape the landscape in which believers live and witness. The passing of spiritual leaders, the challenges of apostasy, and the persecution of Christians in various regions remind us of the cost of faithfulness in a turbulent world. Advances in biotechnology and public health offer hope for combating disease and improving life, yet they also raise ethical questions that call for careful discernment. Meanwhile, archaeological discoveries in the Middle East connect us tangibly to the biblical past, affirming the historical reality of God's promises and the enduring significance of Jerusalem.

As natural phenomena and geopolitical tensions unfold, the call for wisdom, courage, and steadfast faith grows ever more urgent. The interplay of ancient artifacts, modern conflicts, and scientific progress invites believers to trust in God's sovereign plan while engaging faithfully in the present. Prayer and discernment remain essential as the Church navigates these challenging times.

- Pray for the peace and security of Israel, that God would protect His chosen land and people.
- Pray for the persecuted church worldwide, that believers would stand firm and be strengthened in their faith.
- Pray for Christian discernment, faithfulness, and courage amid global unrest and rapid change.

