



Global Watch Daily – November 19, 2025

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

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Israel & Jerusalem

The European Union has announced plans to potentially train up to 3,000 police officers in Gaza, aiming to enhance security and governance in the region ([Times of Israel](#)). A scheduled meeting between American real estate investor Witkoff and a Hamas official was reportedly canceled following pressure from Israeli authorities, reflecting ongoing tensions and diplomatic sensitivities ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, the Saudi crown prince has embarked on a visit to the United States Congress, where opposition to him has notably diminished compared to previous years ([Times of Israel](#)). This visit included a high-profile White House dinner attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and international football star Cristiano Ronaldo ([BBC](#)). Former U.S. President Donald Trump publicly defended the Saudi crown prince regarding the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, stating “things happen” in reference to the incident ([BBC](#)).

In Israel, Bishop Robert Stearns led a significant delegation of evangelical Christian leaders on a visit, emphasizing spiritual solidarity and support for the nation ([Israel365 News](#)). Meanwhile, Hamas continues to stockpile weapons abroad, rejecting former U.S. President Donald Trump’s disarmament plan aimed at curbing the group’s militant capabilities ([Israel365 News](#)). Pesach Wolicki sounded an alarm on the Bannon War Room platform, warning that America faces a growing crisis of Islamic extremism ([Israel365 News](#)).

On the humanitarian front, a recently freed captive moved a crowd gathered at Hostages Square, highlighting the ongoing human cost of conflict ([JNS](#)). The Israeli Supreme Court has directed the government to take criminal action against Haredi draft dodgers, underscoring internal societal tensions regarding military service ([JNS](#)). Additionally, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) issued an evacuation order for Tehran in preparation for potential strikes, indicating heightened military alertness ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The Defense Ministry also announced a military exercise scheduled for Highway 35, aimed at enhancing readiness and operational preparedness ([Jerusalem Post](#)).



In medical news, Israeli researchers have announced a breakthrough in the treatment of blood cancer, offering hope for improved therapies ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Military developments in the region continue to evolve amid ongoing conflict and geopolitical tensions. The Israel Defense Forces have destroyed additional Hamas tunnels, preparing for future operations in Gaza to counter militant threats ([Long War Journal](#)). Intelligence reports indicate that North Korean workers are involved in manufacturing Russian drones, which are being deployed in the Ukraine conflict, highlighting the international dimensions of regional warfare ([Long War Journal](#)).

There has been a noted rise in Islamic State-linked activity within Israel and the West Bank, raising security concerns for Israeli authorities and local populations ([Long War Journal](#)). The Saudi crown prince has touted a \$1 trillion investment in the United States during a meeting with former President Trump, signaling deepening economic ties between the two nations ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

Religious landscapes in the United States and beyond continue to shift. U.S. Catholic leaders are advancing Pope Francis' signature theme of synodality, emphasizing a more participatory, consultative model of Church governance ([Religion News Service](#)). Despite the removal of encampments, students who protested in support of Palestinians remain committed to their cause, indicating ongoing activism on college campuses ([Religion News Service](#)).

On the political right, there is a noted shift away from traditional Judeo-Christian values toward Christian nationalism, reflecting changing religious and cultural identities ([Religion News Service](#)). Church attendance has declined among single mothers, according to recent studies, highlighting demographic challenges for congregations ([Christianity Today](#)). Timothy Keller has articulated that the reality of sin remains the strongest argument for faith, underscoring enduring theological themes ([Christianity Today](#)).

Christian advocates have called for a national convention in response to increasing persecution in India, where pressure on believers is intensifying ([International Christian Concern](#)). In Punjab, an organization is pushing for an anti-conversion law, citing the growth of the Christian population as a concern ([International Christian Concern](#)).



Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Recent scientific advances have produced notable developments in biotechnology and genetic engineering. Researchers have identified methods to maintain the weight-loss benefits of drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy without the associated nausea, thereby improving patient experience ([ScienceDaily](#)). A supercomputer has been used to create the most realistic virtual brain model to date, advancing neuroscience research significantly ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have discovered that metformin, a common diabetes medication, may block some key benefits of exercise, raising essential questions about its use ([ScienceDaily](#)). In agricultural biotechnology, engineering of PVX vectors harboring heterologous viral suppressors of RNA silencing (VSRs) has enhanced recombinant vaccine protein expression in plants, promising improved vaccine production methods ([Nature](#)). Additionally, secondary metabolites derived from *Streptomyces fungicidicus* have shown antiviral properties that alleviate zucchini yellow mosaic virus in squash crops ([Nature](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

New research into ancient viruses has revealed insights that could aid in combating modern superbugs, potentially advancing antibiotic resistance strategies ([ScienceDaily](#)). Studies of blood samples from Long COVID patients have uncovered strange microscopic structures, advancing understanding of this complex post-viral syndrome ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Historical analysis has shown that a 14th-century account of the Black Death misled the world about the nature of the pandemic, offering new perspectives on medieval responses to disease ([ScienceDaily](#)). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published its annual epidemiological report on zoonotic influenza for 2023, providing critical data for ongoing public health efforts ([ECDC](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity continues to be monitored worldwide, with recent earthquakes reported in Washington state (magnitude 2.7), Northern California (magnitude 1.1), and Southern California (magnitude 1.7), indicating ongoing tectonic activity in these regions ([USGS](#), [USGS](#), [USGS](#)). Volcanoes remain active globally, including the ongoing eruption of Sheveluch volcano in Russia, as well as activity at Stromboli, Santiaguito, Fuego, Popocatépetl, Soputan, Merapi, and Semeru ([Volcano Discovery](#), [Volcano Discovery](#)).



NASA continues its exploration efforts with updates from the Curiosity rover's successful drilling operations at Nevado Sajama and the Boxwork Unit on Mars, expanding human knowledge of the planet's geology ([NASA](#) , [NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

International political developments include Lebanon filing a formal complaint against Israel for constructing a controversial wall inside Lebanese territory, escalating diplomatic tensions ([France24](#)). An Israeli airstrike on a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon resulted in the deaths of at least 13 people, with the Israeli army stating the target was a Hamas training compound ([France24](#), [France24](#)).

Russian strikes in Ukraine have killed ten people as President Zelenskiy seeks to revive peace efforts in Turkey. In comparison, one of Russia's deadliest strikes on western Ukraine killed 25 people, including children ([France24](#), [BBC](#)). The UK defense secretary reported that a Russian spy ship, Yantar, directed lasers at UK forces, indicating ongoing covert hostilities ([Politico](#)).

In Asia, Afghanistan has sought increased Indian investment and trade as a Taliban minister arrived in Delhi, signaling economic outreach despite political complexities ([Al-Monitor](#)). Uzbekistan has agreed to continue supplying electricity to Afghanistan, supporting regional energy needs ([The Diplomat](#)). Meanwhile, tensions between China and Japan have escalated over Taiwan, with diplomatic clashes intensifying ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological discoveries in Jerusalem's City of David continue to shed light on the region's ancient history. An Assyrian inscription dating to the First Temple period was recently uncovered, providing valuable historical context ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). Excavations also revealed the largest dam in ancient Israel, highlighting the advanced engineering capabilities of the time ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

A rare gold coin of the Egyptian Queen Berenice II was discovered in the City of David, offering insights into historical trade and cultural connections ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). Additionally, a rare Year Four Revolt coin was found in Jerusalem, associated with the Jewish revolt against Roman rule and symbolizing the enduring hope for the redemption of Zion ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).



Reflection

The current developments in Israel and the broader Middle East reveal a complex interplay of security challenges, diplomatic efforts, and spiritual engagement. The ongoing conflict and military preparations underscore the region's fragile peace, while diplomatic visits and economic investments highlight efforts to build stability and cooperation. The discovery of ancient artifacts in Jerusalem reminds us of the deep historical roots of this land and the enduring significance of Zion in biblical history.

Religious shifts and persecution worldwide call the Church to remain vigilant and faithful. The rise of apostasy and changing religious identities, coupled with increased persecution in places like India and Nigeria, emphasizes the need for prayer and advocacy for believers facing hardship. Scientific and medical advancements offer hope for healing and improved quality of life, yet they also challenge Christians to engage thoughtfully with new technologies and ethical questions.

Natural disasters and signs in the heavens continue to remind us of God's sovereignty over creation. Earthquakes, volcanic activity, and cosmic exploration all point to a world in flux, calling believers to trust in God's providence. As we watch these global events unfold, we are reminded of the biblical call to pray for peace in Jerusalem and for the protection and perseverance of the Church in turbulent times.

- Pray for the peace and security of Israel and Jerusalem, that God would guide leaders and protect His people.
- Pray for the persecuted Church worldwide, especially in regions experiencing increased hostility and oppression.
- Pray for Christian discernment, faithfulness, and courage as believers navigate a rapidly changing and often hostile world.