



Global Watch Daily – November 29, 2025

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

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Israel & Jerusalem

The Dublin City Council is set to vote on a proposal to rename Herzog Park, a move driven by an anti-Israel campaign that has sparked controversy among supporters of Israel ([Times of Israel](#)). Ahead of a visit to Lebanon, Hezbollah has urged Pope Leo to reject what it calls Israeli “aggression,” signaling ongoing tensions in the region and the sensitive nature of international religious diplomacy ([Times of Israel](#)).

In a story of personal triumph, former hostage Gadi Mozes has returned to Kibbutz Nir Oz, where he finds victory and hope in the newly planted fields, symbolizing resilience and renewal after captivity ([Times of Israel](#)). For the first time since the destruction of the Temples, Levites have returned to sing on the Temple Mount, marking a significant moment in Jewish religious tradition and heritage ([Israel365News](#)).

Israel is actively testing its readiness for a potential mass aliyah amid rising antisemitism worldwide, reflecting concerns over global Jewish safety and the importance of immigration policy ([Israel365News](#)). Additionally, a bill advancing in the Knesset seeks to repeal Jordanian-era restrictions on land purchases by Jews in Judea and Samaria. This move could impact settlement policies and regional dynamics ([Israel365News](#)).

President Herzog has spoken personally to the parents of the last Israeli hostage held in Gaza, underscoring the ongoing humanitarian and security challenges faced by Israel ([JNS](#)). Israel also marked the anniversary of the UN Partition Plan, a historic milestone in the establishment of the modern state ([JNS](#)).

In regional rhetoric, Iran’s Supreme Leader Khamenei claimed that Iran defeated the US and Israel in the June 12-day war, reflecting ongoing hostilities and propaganda in the Middle East ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, the ultra-Orthodox military conscription debate has reignited in Israel, highlighting internal societal tensions over national service obligations ([Al-Monitor](#)).



Pope Leo visited Istanbul's Blue Mosque, where he removed his shoes but did not pray, a gesture interpreted as a cautious step toward interfaith dialogue with Muslims ([Al-Monitor](#)). On the humanitarian front, Gaza faces economic challenges as efforts continue to repair its tattered banknotes amid ongoing conflict and instability ([Al-Monitor](#)).

Controversy surrounds a UN panel's report accusing Israel of operating a "de facto policy of torture," a serious allegation amid the complex security and human rights situation ([BBC](#)). In southern Syria, an Israeli raid resulted in thirteen deaths, marking the deadliest such operation in months and reflecting ongoing military activity beyond Israel's borders ([BBC](#)). Additionally, Israeli troops killed two Palestinians after they appeared to surrender, an incident that may raise questions about rules of engagement ([BBC](#)).

In preparation for potential strikes, the Israel Defense Forces issued an evacuation order for Tehran, signaling heightened alert and military readiness ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The Defense Ministry also announced a military exercise on Highway 35, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, aimed at enhancing operational capabilities ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow forced the closure of an airport, indicating the ongoing conflict involving Russia and Ukraine ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Khor Mor gas field in the Kurdistan Region of northern Iraq was attacked, highlighting the vulnerability of critical energy infrastructure in a volatile region ([Long War Journal](#)). The Israel Defense Forces reported that terrorists used an aid route to fire at Israeli troops. They documented 14 ceasefire violations from Gaza between November 22 and 26, underscoring ongoing security challenges along the border ([Long War Journal](#)).

Palestinian Islamic Jihad is reportedly rebuilding its presence in Syria, suggesting a resurgence of militant activity and complicating the security landscape in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). In Africa, a report titled "Africa 2025: Things Fall Apart" outlines deteriorating security and governance conditions, with implications for regional stability ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Greece is currently hosting military exercises involving Israel, Cyprus, and the United Arab Emirates, reflecting growing strategic cooperation among these nations ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)). Meanwhile, the assassination of Hezbollah's top military commander has led to speculation about his likely successors, indicating ongoing internal shifts within the organization ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).



Apostasy & Religious Developments

Pope Leo made a notable visit to Istanbul's Blue Mosque, removing his shoes as a sign of respect but refraining from prayer, signaling a cautious approach to interfaith dialogue with the Muslim community ([Religion News Service](#)). This visit precedes his scheduled talks with Turkey's religious leaders, emphasizing efforts toward religious diplomacy ([France24](#)).

In other religious developments, a new book shares the spiritual experiences of nineteen guests who attended the Maha Kumbh, one of the largest Hindu pilgrimages, highlighting diverse global faith expressions ([Religion News Service](#)). Meanwhile, Ohio's Charlie Kirk education bill has drawn attention for its strong preamble but controversial content, reflecting ongoing debates about education and religious values in public policy ([Religion News Service](#)).

Christianity Today has introduced its new president, marking a leadership transition in one of the most influential evangelical publications ([Christianity Today](#)). The holiday season brings new Christmas music releases that may inspire festive joy among believers ([Christianity Today](#)).

Remembering the wartime service of authors J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, best known for their fantasy writings, highlights the intersection of faith, literature, and history ([Christianity Today](#)). Practical advice on avoiding the holiday hustle and on ways churches can serve the poor is also featured, encouraging believers to focus on spiritual priorities and social outreach ([The Gospel Coalition](#); [The Gospel Coalition](#)).

In the realm of persecution, a Chinese Christian pastor was released after twelve years behind bars, a significant development for religious freedom advocates ([International Christian Concern](#)). Meanwhile, a Thai appeals court upheld the decision to extradite a Christian activist to Vietnam, raising concerns about religious persecution in Southeast Asia ([International Christian Concern](#)). Nigerian Christians have expressed skepticism about Western media explanations of climate change, reflecting differing worldviews on environmental issues ([International Christian Concern](#)).

Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Recent scientific research has uncovered hidden blood molecules with surprising anti-aging properties, opening new avenues for longevity research ([ScienceDaily](#)). Studies also reveal that areas with clustered cannabis stores have seen an increase in emergency



visits, highlighting public health concerns related to cannabis accessibility ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Research indicates that repeated head impacts may quietly impair the brain's cleanup system, suggesting long-term neurological risks for individuals exposed to such trauma ([ScienceDaily](#)). In skincare innovation, the biological activities of *Sapindus mukorossi* seed hydrosol have been investigated for potential use as a natural ingredient ([Nature](#)).

Advances in cancer detection include the development of an ultrasensitive electrochemical biosensor based on MXene quantum dots for identifying prostate cancer biomarkers ([Nature](#)). Additionally, a buffer-tuning strategy has been devised to profile the domain-specific activity of chimeric I-TevI/CRISPR gene editors in vitro, enhancing gene-editing precision ([Nature](#)).

On the policy front, the U.S. government faced criticism for failing to officially acknowledge World AIDS Day, a move seen as a regression in public health advocacy ([STAT News](#)). Changes to Medicare Advantage star ratings under the Trump administration are projected to yield a \$13 billion windfall for insurers, raising questions about the policy's impacts on healthcare ([STAT News](#)). Global measles vaccination rates have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to a World Health Organization report, signaling progress in infectious disease control ([STAT News](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists are concerned about bird flu's surprising heat tolerance, which may increase the risk of transmission and complicate containment efforts ([ScienceDaily](#)). Stunning new three-dimensional images have revealed the hidden structure of the yellow fever virus, providing insights that could aid vaccine development ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Research into a tiny ancient virus has uncovered secrets that may help combat antibiotic-resistant superbugs, offering hope for future medical breakthroughs ([ScienceDaily](#)). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has reported widespread avian influenza in birds, increasing the risk of human exposure and emphasizing the need for vigilance ([ECDC](#)).

Annual epidemiological data on zoonotic influenza for 2023 and a recent communicable disease threats report covering October 11-17, 2025, provide comprehensive overviews of infectious disease trends in Europe, informing public health responses ([ECDC](#) ; [ECDC](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



The World Earthquake Report for November 29, 2025, documents several seismic events worldwide, including minor quakes in California near San Ramon, Hemet, and Pinnacles, reflecting ongoing tectonic activity ([VolcanoDiscovery](#) ; [USGS](#) ; [USGS](#) ; [USGS](#)).

Volcanic activity continues at several sites, including the ongoing eruption of Popocatepetl Volcano in Mexico, as well as at Santiaguito, Fuego, Barren Island, Soputan, Merapi, Semeru, and Shiveluch, indicating persistent geological unrest ([VolcanoDiscovery](#); [VolcanoDiscovery](#)).

In space exploration news, NASA announced the arrival of astronaut Chris Williams and his crewmates at the International Space Station, continuing human presence in orbit ([NASA](#)). Newly found organic compounds have been detected in the plumes of Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, raising interest in astrobiology and the potential for life beyond Earth ([NASA](#)). NASA also offers free out-of-school time educational resources focused on planets, supporting science education for youth ([NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Political divisions within the United States are highlighted by analyses of how former President Trump's base could fracture, reflecting ongoing tensions in American conservatism ([Politico](#)). Top Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Rustem Umerov, have traveled to the United States for peace talks scheduled on Sunday, indicating continued diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict with Russia ([Politico](#)).

A conservative media war has erupted in the U.S., with both sides hoping for Trump's support, underscoring the polarized media environment ([Politico](#)). In Israel, the new draft law has reignited the ultra-Orthodox conscription debate, a contentious issue involving religious communities and national service ([France24](#)).

Pope Leo's visit to Istanbul's Blue Mosque is part of broader talks with Turkey's religious leaders aimed at building bridges between faith communities ([France24](#)). Meanwhile, Dr. Achcar described former President Trump's Gaza plan as the "most slapdash peace plan in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict," reflecting critical perspectives on proposed diplomatic initiatives ([France24](#)).

Airlines worldwide are working to fix a software glitch affecting Airbus A320 aircraft, causing disruptions and highlighting challenges in aviation safety and technology ([France24](#) ; [France24](#)). In Austria, runaway nuns have been allowed back into their convent



until further notice, a development in a unique religious community dispute ([France24](#)).

Russian strikes in Ukraine have caused power outages affecting more than 600,000 people, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis amid ongoing warfare ([BBC](#)). Hong Kong has entered three days of mourning following its deadliest fire in decades, a tragedy that has deeply affected the community ([BBC](#)). The fall of President Zelenskyy's top aide has prompted debate over whether it signals a reboot or costly shake-up for Kyiv's government ([BBC](#)).

In Southeast Asia, a memorandum of understanding between Thailand and the United States on critical minerals has sparked backlash due to mounting environmental costs, highlighting tensions between economic development and ecological concerns ([The Diplomat](#)). Taiwan's request to join the AUKUS security pact has been deemed impossible and irrelevant by analysts, reflecting the complex geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific region ([The Diplomat](#)). Discussions continue how best to defend Australia's democracy in the digital age amid rising cyber threats and misinformation ([The Diplomat](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

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

In addition, a rare gold coin of Egyptian Queen Berenice II was discovered in the City of David, illustrating the historical connections between Israel and neighboring civilizations ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). A rare coin from the Year Four Revolt was also found in Jerusalem, symbolizing the enduring spirit of the Jewish people during times of rebellion ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

Reflection

This week's developments reveal a world marked by tension and hope, particularly centered on Israel and Jerusalem. The return of the Levites to sing on the Temple Mount and the discovery of artifacts from the First Temple period remind us of the enduring biblical heritage that shapes the identity of the Jewish people. At the same time, ongoing



conflicts, military preparations, and political disputes underscore the fragile peace in the region and the challenges Israel faces both internally and externally.

Global health and scientific advances offer a glimpse of human ingenuity and the persistent struggle against disease and aging. At the same time, geopolitical shifts and religious dialogues highlight the complexity of modern alliances and faith interactions. The cautious steps toward interfaith understanding, such as Pope Leo's visit to the Blue Mosque, contrast with the harsh realities of persecution and conflict that believers endure worldwide. These contrasting realities call for prayerful discernment and steadfast faith in God's sovereign plan.

As believers, we are reminded that Israel's history and future remain central to God's unfolding purposes. The archaeological findings and current events together encourage us to observe and pray earnestly for peace, justice, and the spiritual awakening of all peoples.

- Pray for the peace and security of Israel amid ongoing regional tensions.
- Pray for strength and protection for the persecuted church around the world.
- Pray for Christian discernment, faithfulness, and courage in these turbulent and uncertain times.