



## Global Watch Daily – December 12, 2025

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

*Global Watch Daily – December 12, 2025*

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently reported striking a Hezbollah training facility along with other strategic sites in southern Lebanon, intensifying military pressure on the group ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Israel awaits the return of its last hostage held in Gaza, as discussions continue regarding the next phase of a potential ceasefire in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). In a related development, hostages held by Hamas were seen lighting Hanukkah candles in a Gaza tunnel months before their execution, a poignant reminder of the ongoing humanitarian crisis ([Israel365 News](#)).

The International Criminal Court (ICC) officials have faced significant challenges due to sweeping U.S. sanctions that restrict their travel and financial operations, complicating efforts to address international justice issues in the region ([Times of Israel](#)). Additionally, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced plans to conduct a military exercise on Highway 35, signaling ongoing preparedness amid regional tensions ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The IDF also issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of anticipated strikes, underscoring the heightened state of alert in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

On the political front, Chile is experiencing deep polarization ahead of its presidential election, with a far-right candidate poised to prevail, a development watched closely given Chile's diplomatic ties with Israel and the broader Middle East ([Times of Israel](#)). American pastors returning from Israel have been targeted by coordinated online hate campaigns, reflecting ongoing tensions surrounding Christian pilgrimage and support for Israel ([Israel365 News](#)). Meanwhile, Iran's crown prince has publicly stated that the regime is weaker than ever, signaling internal challenges within the country that impact regional stability ([JNS](#)).

Humanitarian concerns remain acute as a United Nations agency warns that displaced Gazans face the threat of floods due to blocked emergency supplies, exacerbating the crisis in the territory ([Al-Monitor](#)). Additionally, Gaza prepares for a pivotal football match, which has become a symbol of hope and resilience amid ongoing conflict ([BBC](#)).



## **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

The United States has escalated its military presence in the Caribbean by deploying an aircraft carrier, issuing airspace warnings, and seizing an oil tanker amid rising tensions in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). This move reflects broader geopolitical contestations that indirectly affect Middle Eastern security dynamics.

In the Middle East, Iran and its proxy groups remain actively engaged in regional conflicts, continuing to influence security challenges across multiple fronts ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)). Concurrently, Iran has intensified its persecution of the Baha'i faith, marking a troubling development in religious freedom and human rights within the country ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

The Muslim Brotherhood continues to exert influence in the region, with ongoing concerns about its role in fomenting jihadist activities and destabilizing efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). These developments underscore the complex security environment facing Israel and its neighbors.

## **Apostasy & Religious Developments**

Religious landscapes continue to evolve globally, with notable shifts in community engagement and leadership. In Denver, a Buddhist nun has been supporting the unhoused population through outreach that includes mantras and a tricycle, illustrating new forms of religious social service ([Religion News Service](#)). Meanwhile, mosque cafes are emerging as community hubs for younger and less religious generations of Muslims, reflecting changing patterns of religious identity and practice ([Religion News Service](#)).

Within Jewish communities, Rabbi Angela Buchdahl is gaining recognition for encouraging Asian American Jews to take leadership roles and for highlighting diversity and inclusion in religious spaces ([Religion News Service](#)). Christian voices continue to emphasize the importance of faithfulness and courage, with resources on how to share the gospel effectively and reflections on theological themes such as salvation and the nature of Christ ([The Gospel Coalition](#); [The Gospel Coalition](#); [The Gospel Coalition](#)).

Persecution of Christians remains a pressing issue. The Vietnamese government has remained silent on the case of a Christian refugee who was extradited, raising concerns about religious freedom ([International Christian Concern](#)). In England, a teacher who was fired for calling the country a Christian nation has won an appeal, a legal development



with implications for religious expression in public life ([International Christian Concern](#)). The family of an imprisoned Chinese pastor has issued pleas for encouragement and awareness, highlighting ongoing challenges faced by believers under authoritarian regimes ([International Christian Concern](#)).

## **Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering**

Recent scientific advances have identified an ingredient in dark chocolate that may slow the aging process, offering potential health benefits ([Science Daily](#)). Research has also revealed that nerve injuries can trigger hidden immune changes throughout the entire body, expanding understanding of systemic responses to trauma ([Science Daily](#)).

In the realm of supplements, NAD+ has shown early promise in alleviating long COVID symptoms such as fatigue and brain fog, suggesting new avenues for treatment ([Science Daily](#)). Experimental therapies are also advancing in veterinary medicine, with the bovine mesenchymal stem cell secretome being evaluated for the treatment of endometritis in dairy cows ([Nature](#)). Additionally, efficient production techniques for common marmoset embryos have been developed, involving in vitro fertilization and somatic cell nuclear transfer, which may have implications for biomedical research ([Nature](#)).

A new mRNA vaccine targeting glioma through selective organ-to-cell delivery is under development, representing a novel approach in cancer treatment ([Nature](#)). In healthcare workforce news, nurses and pharmacists report ongoing crises of overwork and staffing shortages, with union efforts to improve conditions and patient safety ([STAT News](#); [STAT News](#)). Suicide prevention initiatives are also gaining traction, with promising methods being introduced in clinical settings ([STAT News](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

In global health developments, the NAD+ supplement's potential to alleviate long COVID fatigue and brain fog has been highlighted, offering hope for those affected by lingering symptoms ([Science Daily](#)). A rapid 15-minute hepatitis C test has been developed, which could revolutionize diagnosis and treatment accessibility worldwide ([Science Daily](#)).

Scientists have uncovered a volcanic trigger behind the historic Black Death pandemic, providing new insights into the environmental factors influencing disease outbreaks ([Science Daily](#)). Meanwhile, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has released an overview of avian influenza cases from September to November



2025, emphasizing ongoing surveillance efforts ([ECDC](#)). The ECDC has also outlined strategies to combat avian and swine flu transmission to humans, aiming to prevent potential pandemics ([ECDC](#)).

## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**

Seismic activity has been recorded globally, including a magnitude 1.8 earthquake south-southwest of Whites City, New Mexico, and a magnitude 3.1 quake north of Culebra, Puerto Rico, reflecting ongoing tectonic movements ([USGS](#) ; [USGS](#)). In California, a magnitude 1.8 earthquake occurred near The Geysers, a notable geothermal area ([USGS](#)).

Volcanic activity remains prominent with eruptions and ash advisories issued for several volcanoes, including Santiaguito, Fuego, Semeru, Reventador, Sangay, and Puracé ( [Volcano Discovery](#) ; [Volcano Discovery](#)). NASA has highlighted massive stars captured in a Hubble Space Telescope image, contributing to our understanding of stellar evolution ( [NASA](#)). Additionally, the U.S. Northwest has experienced significant moisture from Pacific weather systems, which have impacted regional climate conditions ([NASA](#)). NASA has also selected two heliophysics missions for continued development, advancing the study of solar phenomena ([NASA](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

European Union countries have agreed to impose taxes on cheap packages starting in July, a measure aimed at regulating cross-border e-commerce and protecting local markets ( [Politico](#)). Russia has filed a lawsuit against Euroclear amid disputes over frozen assets in Europe, reflecting ongoing tensions between Russia and Western financial institutions ( [Politico](#)).

In the United Kingdom, authorities have adopted a relaxed stance regarding social media checks for tourists, including former President Donald Trump, signaling shifts in border security policies ([Politico](#)). The United Arab Emirates is actively seeking to increase the employment of Emirati nationals in the private sector as part of broader economic reforms ([France24](#)).

Amnesty International has accused Hamas of crimes against humanity related to the October 7 attack, underscoring ongoing international scrutiny of the group's actions ( [France24](#)). A recent winter storm has devastated Gaza, exposing failures to deliver adequate aid to the territory's population ([France24](#)). Germany has summoned the



Russian ambassador in response to cyberattacks targeting air traffic control and its general election, highlighting cybersecurity concerns in Europe ([France24](#)). Additionally, Germany has accused Russia of conducting cyberattacks and spreading disinformation throughout 2024, further straining relations ([BBC](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeological discoveries continue to shed light on the ancient history of Jerusalem and the broader region. An Assyrian inscription dating from the First Temple period was recently uncovered, providing valuable insights into the era's historical context ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). In the City of David, the largest dam from ancient Israel has been excavated, revealing advanced engineering capabilities of the time ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

A rare gold coin belonging to Egyptian Queen Berenice II was also discovered in Jerusalem's City of David, highlighting the city's historical connections with neighboring civilizations ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)). Furthermore, a rare coin from the Year Four Revolt was found, symbolizing the enduring spirit of resistance and the quest for redemption in Zion ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

## **Reflection**

The current global landscape is marked by conflict, shifting alliances, and profound challenges to religious freedom and human dignity. In Israel and the surrounding region, military actions and humanitarian crises underscore the ongoing struggle for security and peace. At the same time, archaeological discoveries remind us of the deep historical roots that shape present realities. The persistence of persecution against believers in various nations calls the Church to vigilance and prayer. Advances in biotechnology and global health reflect human ingenuity but also highlight the fragility of life amid pandemics and environmental upheavals. Natural disasters and celestial phenomena continue to serve as reminders of the Creator's sovereign hand over the earth.

As believers, we are called to remain faithful and courageous, discerning the times with wisdom grounded in Scripture. The unfolding events invite us to intercede for Israel, the persecuted Church, and for the global community navigating turbulent and uncertain days.

- Pray for the peace and protection of Israel and Jerusalem amid ongoing conflict.
- Pray for strength and encouragement for persecuted Christians worldwide.



- Pray for Christian discernment, faithfulness, and courage in the face of global challenges.