



Global Watch Daily – December 13, 2025

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

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Israel & Jerusalem

In Iran, the government has raised gasoline prices for the first time since the deadly protests of 2019, a move that could have significant social and economic repercussions within the country ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, human rights organizations have condemned the reported re-arrest of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi in Iran, highlighting ongoing concerns about political repression and the treatment of dissidents ([Times of Israel](#)), ([Al-Monitor](#)), ([BBC](#)).

In Turkey, the Konya Plain has experienced significant collapse due to sinkholes, raising environmental and safety concerns. This event has been metaphorically linked to the biblical story of Korach, drawing attention to the region's geological instability ([Israel365News](#)). On the political front, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed optimism about peace prospects following a recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, stating that “peace is not far away” in the region ([Al-Monitor](#)).

In Gaza, harrowing footage has emerged showing hostages lighting Hanukkah candles in a tunnel months before their reported execution by Hamas, underscoring the human cost of the ongoing conflict ([Israel365News](#)). Efforts to advance peace in Gaza remain stalled, with former U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan struggling to make progress amid difficult choices faced by both Israel and Hamas ([BBC](#)).

A new documentary film chronicles the remarkable climb of a nearly blind former Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) soldier up a legendary rock formation, highlighting themes of perseverance and courage ([JNS](#)). In a notable military development, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, signaling heightened tensions and potential escalation in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In Libya, the Red Castle Museum has reopened for the first time since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, marking a significant cultural milestone for the country ([Al-Monitor](#)).



The Israeli Defense Ministry announced it will conduct a military exercise on Highway 35 on Sunday afternoon to enhance preparedness and security along this strategic route ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Within Israel, efforts are underway to secure the nation's most vulnerable border, reflecting ongoing security concerns and the need for enhanced defense measures ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Ukraine has reported regaining territory from Russian forces in the Kupiansk area, marking a significant development in the ongoing war in Eastern Europe ([Long War Journal](#)). Additionally, a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow forced the temporary closure of a major airport, illustrating the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia and its broader regional implications ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

The Islamic State continues its violent campaign against Christians in the Democratic Republic of Congo, escalating persecution and instability in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). American pastors returning from Israel have been targeted by coordinated online hate campaigns, reflecting ongoing tensions surrounding the area and the challenges faced by Christian visitors and supporters of Israel ([Israel365News](#)).

In Iran, Baluch separatist factions have united to form the Popular Fighters Front coalition, signaling a new phase in the country's internal conflicts and resistance movements ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, Iranian workers are seeking to unite for improved labor conditions but face significant challenges, including the need for external support to achieve meaningful change ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

A recent article explores the spiritual life and sense of purpose found within monastic communities, highlighting the enduring appeal of contemplative Christian traditions in a complex world ([Religion News Service](#)).

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has threatened to bar federal funding for six years from Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, led by Sister Norma Pimentel, due to disputes related to migrant aid programs ([Religion News Service](#)). Actor Jim Caviezel, known for his role in "The Passion of the Christ," is set to portray former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in a 2026 biopic, reflecting ongoing interest in faith and politics in popular culture ([Religion News Service](#)).



Concerns about apostasy and misleading religious trends have been raised, with calls for believers to remain vigilant and discerning amid shifting cultural and theological currents ([The Gospel Coalition](#)).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, conflict has sharply escalated despite ongoing peace efforts, exacerbating the persecution of Christians and humanitarian crises in the region ([International Christian Concern](#)). Ghana has deported several Israelis in apparent retaliation for the alleged mistreatment of Ghanaian nationals, reflecting diplomatic tensions between the two countries ([BBC](#)).

The European Union has discussed the increasing persecution of Christians in South Asia, signaling heightened awareness and concern among international bodies ([International Christian Concern](#)).

In Vietnam, the government remains silent on the case of a Christian refugee who was extradited, raising fears about religious freedom and the treatment of believers in authoritarian contexts ([International Christian Concern](#)).

Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Scientists have identified an ingredient in dark chocolate that appears to slow the aging process, potentially opening new avenues for health and longevity research ([Science Daily](#)).

Research has revealed that nerve injuries can trigger hidden immune system changes throughout the entire body, offering new insights into the systemic effects of localized trauma ([Science Daily](#)).

A supplement called NAD+ shows early promise in alleviating symptoms of long COVID, including fatigue and brain fog, suggesting potential therapeutic benefits for people with post-viral conditions ([Science Daily](#)).

Systematic analysis of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines using multiple orthogonal approaches has shown no excess DNA impurities, supporting their safety profile ([Nature](#)). In addition to its potential for treating long COVID, the NAD+ supplement is being studied for broader applications in combating fatigue and cognitive impairments associated with viral illnesses ([Science Daily](#)).



Advances in enzyme cascade technology have enabled the synthesis of 2'-fucosyllactose, a complex sugar with potential health benefits, through cofactor regeneration methods ([Nature](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

A new rapid hepatitis C test that delivers results in 15 minutes could revolutionize diagnosis and treatment, improving outcomes for millions worldwide ([Science Daily](#)).

Scientists have uncovered evidence linking volcanic activity to the Black Death outbreak, providing a fresh understanding of historical pandemics and their environmental triggers ([Science Daily](#)).

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has released an overview of avian influenza cases from September to November 2025, highlighting ongoing risks and monitoring efforts ([ECDC](#)). In response to recent outbreaks, the ECDC has defined new strategies to combat avian and swine flu in humans, aiming to prevent widespread transmission and protect public health ([ECDC](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

On December 13, 2025, several earthquakes were recorded worldwide, including a magnitude 3.3 quake northeast of Pedro Bay, Alaska, and a magnitude 3.5 quake east-southeast of Susitna North, Alaska, reflecting ongoing seismic activity in these regions ([USGS](#)), ([USGS](#)).

Volcanic activity continues at several sites globally, including sporadic ash emissions from Puracé Volcano, as well as activity at Santiaguito, Fuego, Semeru, Ibu, Reventador, Sangay, and Sakurajima volcanoes, monitored closely by volcanologists ([Volcano Discovery](#)), ([Volcano Discovery](#)).

NASA astronaut Jonny Kim is scheduled to discuss his recent eight-month mission aboard the International Space Station, sharing insights from his time in space ([NASA](#)).

NASA's Webb Space Telescope and Curiosity rover have been inducted into TIME magazine's Best Inventions Hall of Fame, recognizing their significant contributions to space exploration and scientific discovery ([NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Former U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated for a strong Europe, urging European leaders to listen to calls for unity and resilience amid global challenges ([Politico](#)).

Legal challenges have emerged against Trump's construction projects and policies, including a lawsuit by a national preservation group to halt his ballroom construction and a multi-state suit opposing a proposed \$100,000 H-1B visa fee ([Politico](#)), ([Politico](#)).

In Israel, there has been a surge in firearm purchases by women following the October 7 attacks, reflecting heightened security concerns among civilians ([France24](#)).

The United Arab Emirates is actively seeking to increase the hiring of Emirati nationals in the private sector, aiming to boost employment and economic participation among its citizens ([France24](#)).

Amnesty International has accused Hamas of crimes against humanity related to the October 7 attacks, intensifying international scrutiny of the militant group ([France24](#)).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited troops near a key city as Ukraine claimed to have gained ground in recent fighting, underscoring ongoing efforts to resist Russian advances ([France24](#)). Ukraine faces widespread power outages affecting one million households following Russian attacks on its energy grid, exacerbating civilian hardships during winter ([BBC](#)).

The European Union has agreed to indefinitely freeze Russian central bank assets as part of continued sanctions related to the conflict in Ukraine ([France24](#)).

Russia has claimed to have launched hypersonic missile strikes on Ukrainian facilities, escalating the technological dimension of the war ([France24](#)).

In Southeast Asia, Cambodia has closed border crossings with Thailand amid ongoing fighting, reflecting regional instability ([BBC](#)).

In India, a public event featuring soccer star Lionel Messi was disrupted by angry fans who threw chairs and bottles, highlighting social tensions in the country ([BBC](#)).

Bangladesh has scheduled a pivotal election and referendum, raising questions about potential unrest and political instability ([The Diplomat](#)).

North Korea held an end-of-year party plenum, an event closely watched for indications of the regime's internal direction and policy priorities ([The Diplomat](#)).



Concerns about America's reliance on China for pharmaceuticals have been raised as a national security issue, highlighting strategic vulnerabilities in global supply chains ([The Diplomat](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists have uncovered an Assyrian inscription dating from the First Temple period, providing valuable insight into the ancient history of Jerusalem and its surrounding regions ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

The largest dam from ancient Israel has been uncovered in the City of David, shedding light on the sophisticated water management systems of biblical times ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

A rare gold coin bearing the image of Egyptian Queen Berenice II was discovered in the City of David, highlighting the region's historical connections with neighboring cultures ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

Archaeologists also found a rare Year Four Revolt coin in Jerusalem, associated with the Jewish revolt against Roman rule, symbolizing the enduring spirit of redemption and resistance ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).

Reflection

The developments reported today reveal a world marked by conflict, resilience, and the ongoing struggle for justice and peace. In Israel and the surrounding region, tensions remain high with military preparations and humanitarian crises unfolding alongside cultural and archaeological discoveries that remind us of the deep historical roots of this land. The persecution of believers, whether in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, or South Asia, underscores the cost of faithfulness in hostile environments. Advances in biotechnology and global health offer hope amid challenges posed by pandemics and disease, while natural disasters and cosmic exploration remind us of the vastness and complexity of God's creation.

Amid geopolitical shifts and social unrest, the call to remain steadfast in faith and discernment is clear. These events echo the biblical themes of struggle, redemption, and the ultimate hope found in God's sovereignty. As believers, we are called to pray for peace in Jerusalem, protection for the persecuted church, and courage to stand firm in turbulent times.



- Pray for peace and security in Israel and Jerusalem amid ongoing regional tensions.
- Pray for strength and protection for Christians facing persecution worldwide.
- Pray for discernment, faithfulness, and boldness for believers navigating a complex and challenging world.