



## Global Watch Daily – February 4, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Israeli authorities have charged twelve suspects involved in smuggling goods into Gaza, including Bezael Zini, the brother of the Shin Bet chief, who allegedly accepted payments during his IDF reserve duty ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)). Meanwhile, a one-year-old child has tragically died of measles in Jerusalem, marking the 14th fatality in the ongoing outbreak, with health officials emphasizing that delayed hospital care was a critical factor ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

The IDF has also issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, reflecting escalating regional tensions ([Jerusalem Post](#); [BBC News](#)). These developments underscore the complex security challenges facing Israel and its neighbors.

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

Israel continues focused military operations targeting Hezbollah assets in southern Lebanon, despite claims by Lebanese forces of operational control in the region, highlighting ongoing conflict dynamics ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, the United States has launched “Project Vault” to challenge China’s dominance in critical mineral markets essential to defense and commercial technologies ([FDD](#)).

Amid shifting global alliances, Chatham House warns that the Western alliance is fracturing amid superpower competition, with US policy under President Trump marking a revolutionary departure from traditional principles, raising concerns about international law and global stability ([Chatham House](#)).

### **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

In global political news, Norway’s crown princess’s son gave emotional testimony in a rape trial, while South Africa’s second-largest party leader announced plans to step down, potentially destabilizing the coalition government (BBC News; BBC News). Meanwhile, preparations for the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics face challenges, including unfinished



venues and logistical hurdles, though organizers remain confident ([France24](#)).

Economic and scientific developments include Southeast Asia's aviation market surge amid supply chain strains and the rise of China's COMAC, alongside political analysis of Thailand's Pheu Thai party's controversial strategies and Asia's scientific collaborations benefiting biodiversity conservation ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Recent scientific findings reveal a bat-borne virus infecting humans in Bangladesh, raising concerns about undetected zoonotic threats alongside Nipah virus surveillance ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, an international study highlights cultural and healthcare disparities contributing to more severe long COVID brain fog symptoms in the U.S. compared to countries like India and Nigeria ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Water safety concerns have emerged in Guatemala, where trusted bottled water sources have been found contaminated, in contrast to cleaner municipal wells ([ScienceDaily](#)). Advances in synthetic bacteriophage engineering offer hope against antibiotic-resistant bacteria, while low-dose THC shows promise in mitigating HIV treatment side effects without intoxication ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Seismic activity was recorded: a magnitude 2.2 earthquake near Tyonek, Alaska, and a minor 0.2 magnitude tremor near The Geysers, California, indicating ongoing tectonic activity ([USGS](#)). NASA scientists continue to monitor glacial flow dynamics and urban ice phenomena, such as ice hugging Manhattan's shores amid recent deep freezes ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

Weather forecasts predict snow from the Ohio Valley into the Mid-Atlantic and rain with thunderstorms across the Southeast, reflecting active atmospheric patterns ([weather.gov](#)). Additionally, a magnitude 1.9 earthquake was recorded near Cayanosa, Texas, underscoring the variety of natural events occurring globally ([USGS](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeological excavations on Ha-Te'uda Ha-Aduma Street in Yafo uncovered fourteen military artifacts, including cannonballs and bullets, linked to historical sieges such as those by Muhammad Beq Abu-Dahab and Napoleon, enriching understanding of the area's



marital history ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, about fifty glass items from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries were found, reflecting everyday life through medicine, cosmetic bottles, and bracelet fragments spanning the Mamluk to Ottoman periods ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

The extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley revealed architectural remains and artifacts from the Hellenistic through Early Islamic periods, providing valuable insights into settlement patterns, material culture, and economy over centuries ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

## **Reflection**

We should interpret these developments soberly, resisting both panic and apathy while attending to what is true. Our aim is prayerful discernment—grounding convictions in Scripture and keeping watch with steadiness and hope.