



Global Watch Daily – February 18, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Heightened tensions between the United States and Iran point to a potential imminent conflict. Former IDF intelligence leaders and US officials warn that a war could last for weeks if nuclear negotiations fail ([Times of Israel](#); [FDD](#)).

Meanwhile, legal proceedings continue abroad as UK authorities prepare a retrial for activists involved in a 2024 raid on an Israeli defense firm, highlighting ongoing international disputes related to Israel's security ([JNS](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Reports also reveal the IDF's strategic preparations, including evacuation orders issued for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, reflecting an escalating military posture in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Hamas has renewed threats against rival Palestinian militias in Gaza amid ongoing military pressure and US-Iran nuclear negotiations, underscoring the complex and volatile security environment ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

US Treasury sanctions targeting a Hezbollah front in Lebanon aim to disrupt the terror group's financial networks, reflecting ongoing efforts to counter regional threats ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Diplomatic engagements continue with events on Japan's role in the Global South and the appointment of a new director at Chatham House's Global Governance and Security Centre, indicating shifts in international security discourse ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Russia-Ukraine peace talks concluded without progress, highlighting the intractability of the ongoing conflict and the challenges facing diplomacy ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

At the same time, rights groups warn of the potential adoption of US-style immigration enforcement across Europe, raising concerns about mass detention and deportations, including of vulnerable populations ([France24](#); [BBC News](#)).

Economic and diplomatic ties are evolving as Mongolia seeks to expand cooperation with Russia, while Bangladesh faces an uncertain future following recent elections, reflecting shifting regional dynamics ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Innovative scientific breakthroughs offer hope against antibiotic resistance, with new CRISPR-based tools and sugar-targeting antibodies showing promise in combating superbugs ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Vaccine safety is supported by studies showing no link between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and autism, while new nasal vaccines demonstrate strong protection against emerging threats such as H5N1 bird flu ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Research mapping immune system epigenetics reveals how life experiences shape individual responses to infections, providing insights critical for future medical interventions ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes multiple earthquakes in California and Texas, with magnitudes ranging from 1.5 to 2.3, highlighting ongoing tectonic activity ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Madagascar is facing severe flooding after back-to-back cyclones Fytia and Gezani, affecting tens of thousands of people and highlighting the increasing intensity of natural disasters ([NASA](#); [weather.gov](#)).

NASA's Curiosity rover continues its exploration of Gale crater on Mars, advancing scientific understanding of Martian geology and the planet's history ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts



Archaeological excavations in Israel continue to illuminate the region's rich history. Recent digs at Maghar and Migdal have uncovered artifacts spanning the Chalcolithic to Early Islamic periods ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

The extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra and Maresha provide valuable insights into settlement patterns, material culture, and daily life from the Hellenistic through Byzantine and Early Islamic eras, enriching understanding of the area's historical continuity ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [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.