



Global Watch Daily – February 20, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Recent developments include the Epstein estate agreeing to settle victim claims for up to \$35 million, pending federal judge approval, reflecting ongoing legal reckonings with past abuses ([Times of Israel](#)). Security forces in Jerusalem and the IDF remain on high alert for the first Friday of Ramadan, with operations ongoing against Hamas infrastructure in Gaza ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, public opinion shows 59% of Israelis support joining potential US strikes on Iran, underscoring regional tensions ([Times of Israel](#)).

On the diplomatic front, the IDF has issued evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of possible strikes, signaling escalating military postures ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Concurrently, former US President Trump has warned the world that it has 10 days to see whether Iran agrees to a deal or face consequences, highlighting the urgency of nuclear negotiations ([BBC News](#)). These developments collectively reflect the complex security and political dynamics in Israel and its surroundings.

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

At the recent US-backed Board of Peace meeting, five countries pledged troops to an International Stabilization Force for Gaza, alongside commitments of approximately \$7 billion in funding to support ceasefire efforts and reconstruction ([Long War Journal](#)). Despite these diplomatic efforts, clashes continue between the IDF and militants in Gaza, with ongoing ceasefire violations reported ([Long War Journal](#)).

Analysis suggests Iran holds an upper hand at the negotiating table, aiming to leverage silence from the US administration to advance its regional agenda ([FDD](#)). President Trump's Board of Peace emphasizes not only disarming Hamas but also deradicalizing Gaza to ensure long-term stability, highlighting the multifaceted approach required ([FDD](#)).

In parallel, Chatham House has engaged in strategic partnerships and discussions focusing on global mineral supply chains and geopolitical competition, including events on Japan's



role in the Global South, reflecting broader international dynamics influencing regional security ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Internationally, the death of Asos co-founder Quentin Griffiths in Thailand marks a notable business loss ([BBC News](#)). In Venezuela, opposition politician Juan Pablo Guanipa was released following an amnesty law, signaling potential political shifts ([BBC News](#)).

Meanwhile, investigations continue into the sharing of confidential documents involving Andrew, highlighting ongoing legal and political controversies in the UK ([France24](#)). Reports also reveal that hundreds of Kenyans have been tricked into fighting for Russia in Ukraine, raising concerns about exploitation and misinformation ([France24](#)).

In South Asia, the BNP's electoral victory in Bangladesh is seen as opening the door wider for Islamabad, underscoring the importance of sovereign equality in regional relations ([The Diplomat](#)). Additionally, Indonesia has signed a reciprocal trade agreement with the US, setting tariffs at 19%, which is expected to enhance bilateral trade relations ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientific advances include a reengineered HPV vaccine that trains T cells to hunt down cancer, showing promise in slowing tumor growth and extending survival in animal models ([ScienceDaily](#)). Breakthrough CRISPR technology has been developed to reverse antibiotic resistance by spreading genetic fixes through bacterial populations, potentially combating superbugs ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Large studies find no link between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and autism, providing reassurance about vaccine safety ([ScienceDaily](#)). Research also reveals how life experiences rewrite the immune system's molecular record, influencing individual responses to infections and vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Historical pandemic patterns show that both H1N1 and COVID-19 spread rapidly across US cities, driven by major travel hubs and air travel, underscoring the need for early detection systems ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, scientists have identified a sugar unique to bacterial cells that could be targeted to defeat deadly superbugs, offering new therapeutic avenues ([ScienceDaily](#)).



Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 3.6 earthquake near Point Possession, Alaska, and a stronger 5.8 quake northeast of Bāzārak, Afghanistan, both recorded by USGS ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)). A 4.9 magnitude event was also noted at the central East Pacific Rise ([USGS](#)).

Environmental conditions on the Southern Plains have worsened with dry, gusty winds fueling fast-growing fires and dangerous dust storms in Oklahoma and Kansas, as reported by NASA ([NASA](#)). NASA is also investigating public responses to new air taxi noise, which may affect communities differently depending on location ([NASA](#)).

Weather.gov highlights critical fire weather in the Southern High Plains and heavy snow in the Great Lakes and Northeast U.S., emphasizing the varied and extreme weather patterns currently affecting the nation ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations continue to shed light on the region's rich history. In Tiberias, a 1953 excavation led by B. Ravni uncovered significant findings contributing to historical understanding ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Similarly, the Romema neighborhood in Haifa saw excavations beginning in 1971 under M. Prausnitz and A. Zigelman, revealing walls and pottery fragments that illuminate past settlement patterns ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley, directed by Gil Tahal in the 1990s, uncovered architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, offering insights into the region's historical settlement and culture ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further archaeological study at Maresha IV documented 152 subterranean complexes, highlighting religious diversity and cultural syncretism during the Hellenistic period through carved decorative elements and inscriptions ([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.

