



Global Watch Daily – February 23, 2026

Global Watch Daily – February 23, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Political debates within the GOP highlight a struggle between isolationist and Christian Zionist factions, influencing future US policy toward Israel amid Trump's unpredictable leadership ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Security forces successfully foiled a terrorist cell in the Galilee region, preventing planned attacks after uncovering training and operational guidance, while antisemitic violence was reported abroad, including an assault on an Australian teen wearing Jewish symbols ([JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

US military withdrawal from northeast Syria is underway, marking an end to a 12-year presence; meanwhile, violence erupted in Mexico following the killing of cartel leader 'El Mencho,' reflecting ongoing regional instability ([Times of Israel](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israel continues military operations in Lebanon targeting Hezbollah and Hamas infrastructure, while Palestinian militants have violated the Gaza ceasefire multiple times, underscoring persistent tensions despite diplomatic efforts ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

At the US-hosted Board of Peace meeting, international stakeholders pledged troops and \$7 billion in funding for a stabilization force in Gaza, aiming to support ceasefire enforcement and reconstruction amid ongoing conflict ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

US President Trump signals openness to diplomacy with Iran despite military pressure, while warning Tehran to reach a deal, reflecting a complex approach to regional security and negotiations ([FDD](#); [BBC News](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



The ICC is hearing charges against former Philippine president Duterte for alleged crimes against humanity in his war on drugs, highlighting ongoing international accountability efforts ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

Volunteers in Brussels assemble drones for Ukraine, demonstrating grassroots support for the conflict, while regional tensions persist as the DR Congo-Burundi border reopens after an offensive, and Cambodia protests Thai naval actions in disputed waters ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Japan's recent election yields mixed implications for its ruling coalition, reflecting shifting political dynamics in East Asia amid broader geopolitical challenges ([The Diplomat](#); [BBC News](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have discovered a 5,000-year-old bacterium in a Romanian ice cave that resists modern antibiotics, raising concerns about ancient resistance genes impacting current treatments ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Research links the pneumonia-causing bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae* to Alzheimer's disease by demonstrating its role in brain inflammation and amyloid-beta buildup, especially in genetically susceptible individuals ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovations in cancer vaccines show promise as reengineered HPV vaccines enhance T cell responses, slowing tumor growth and improving survival in models, signaling advances in immunotherapy ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A novel CRISPR system developed at UC San Diego offers hope to combat antibiotic resistance by genetically reversing resistance traits in bacteria, potentially curbing the superbug crisis projected for 2050 ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Large-scale studies find no association between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and autism or developmental delays, providing reassurance about vaccine safety for expectant mothers ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 4.2 earthquake south of the Fiji Islands at a depth of 547 km, a 3.2 magnitude quake near Stanton, Texas, and a 1.6 magnitude tremor



near McCarthy, Alaska, reflecting ongoing tectonic movements ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA highlights include the appointment of Regina Senegal as acting chief of Quality and Flight Equipment at Johnson Space Center and efforts to reintroduce giant tortoises to the Galápagos Islands, demonstrating ongoing commitment to safety and environmental restoration ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

A major winter storm is forecast to impact the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast US, while inclement weather affects the Pacific Northwest, indicating significant weather challenges for the region ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations at Tel Roeh and Tel 'Erani reveal significant Iron Age structures including casemate walls, towers, and glacis walls, contributing to understanding of ancient settlement patterns in the Beit She'an Valley ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Recent archaeological work also uncovered a 4th-century basilica in Ostia and a Second Temple period stone tool workshop on Mount Scopus, shedding light on religious and daily life in ancient times ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

Excavations at Tel Mor and Tel Yizra'el continue to provide insights into ancient urban development, with discoveries of wells and stratified occupation layers dating to various historical periods ([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.