



Global Watch Daily – March 4, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

In a historic milestone, an Israeli F-35 fighter jet successfully shot down an Iranian aircraft over Tehran, marking the first air-to-air combat engagement by the Israeli Air Force in forty years ([Times of Israel](#)). This military accomplishment coincides with Israel's public celebration of the joint U.S.-Israel strike that killed Iran's Khamenei, showcased in a Times Square video praised as a step toward a better world ([JNS](#)).

The ongoing conflict involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran is viewed by some as a religious war, with reports indicating that U.S. troops are being told the conflict aims to bring about biblical end times and Armageddon ([Al Jazeera](#)). Meanwhile, Iran continues its retaliatory strikes against Israel and the Gulf region as the conflict enters its fifth day ([BBC News](#)).

Negotiations are underway between the U.S. and Kurdish militias near the Iraqi border regarding a potential alliance to join the American-Israeli war effort against Iran, highlighting the expanding regional scope of the conflict ([JNS](#)). Editor David Horowitz of Times of Israel offers analysis on the origins and international perceptions of the war, emphasizing the complexity of assigning blame and shaping narratives on the global stage ([Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Iran-backed Iraqi Shiite militias have escalated their attacks on U.S. bases throughout Iraq and the surrounding region, claiming dozens of drone and missile strikes since March 1 ([Long War Journal](#)). At the same time, U.S.-Israeli strikes have targeted Iran's missile launchers, nuclear facilities at Natanz, and political and repression centers in Tehran and western Iran, aiming to undermine the regime's military and leadership capabilities ([Long War Journal](#)).

The strategic goal of the U.S.-Israeli operation was outlined by President Donald Trump in a notably brief speech, emphasizing the campaign's role in restoring American strength ([FDD](#)). Israel has also targeted the Tehran regime's Assembly of Experts to disrupt



succession planning, signaling a focused effort to destabilize Iran's political continuity ([FDD](#)).

Early successes in the campaign demonstrate unprecedented U.S.-Israel coordination in neutralizing Iranian missiles and drones, though Tehran's retaliatory strikes have expanded across multiple Arab states, targeting civilian infrastructure and military sites in the Gulf region ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

In Europe, a Greek court reaffirmed its verdict convicting the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party as a criminal organization, sentencing its founder and officials nearly six years after the original trial ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, UK authorities arrested three men suspected of spying for China, underscoring ongoing intelligence concerns within Western nations ([BBC News](#)).

Former hostage Louis Arnaud recounted his imprisonment in Iran's notorious Evin prison and voiced concerns for the safety of tens of thousands of political prisoners amid escalating Israeli-U.S. strikes ([France24](#)). On the diplomatic front, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez responded sharply to U.S. President Donald Trump's criticisms over Spain's refusal to allow U.S. planes to use its bases for attacks on Iran, reflecting tensions among allied nations ([France24](#)).

In Asia, the U.S.-Indonesia reciprocal trade agreement has come under scrutiny, with Jakarta making significant concessions but receiving little evidence of reciprocity from Washington ([The Diplomat](#)). Taiwan's social policies, particularly its "Social Shield," are increasingly recognized as vital to preserving democratic sovereignty beyond the semiconductor industry ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have identified a bacterial kill switch involving viral proteins that disable the MurJ protein, which is essential for bacterial cell wall construction, offering promising new strategies to combat antibiotic-resistant superbugs ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, a shingles vaccine has been shown to slow biological aging and reduce chronic inflammation in older adults, potentially mitigating age-related diseases ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovative cancer therapies are emerging as researchers engineer bacteria to invade and consume tumors from within, exploiting the low-oxygen environment of tumor cores (



[ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, a universal nasal spray vaccine developed at Stanford Medicine shows promise in protecting against COVID-19, flu, pneumonia, and allergens by enhancing lung immune defenses ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A bacterium frozen for 5,000 years in a Romanian ice cave exhibits resistance to many modern antibiotics despite predating the antibiotic era, raising concerns about ancient resistance genes ([ScienceDaily](#)). Furthermore, the common pneumonia bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae* may contribute to Alzheimer's disease by invading the brain and triggering inflammation and amyloid-beta buildup, especially in individuals with the APOE4 gene ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.0 earthquake near Saratoga Springs, Utah, and a magnitude 3.2 quake near Calexico, California, along with additional smaller tremors recorded in the region ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)). These events highlight ongoing tectonic movements in the western United States.

Oklahoma's Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge continues to attract rare species and enthusiasts seeking crystallized gypsum known as selenite, showcasing unique natural phenomena ([NASA](#)). NASA also announced enhancements to its Artemis lunar program, adding missions and refining its architecture to maintain U.S. leadership in space exploration ([NASA](#)).

Severe thunderstorms are forecast for the Central U.S., accompanied by record temperatures expected in the Eastern U.S., signaling volatile weather patterns as spring approaches ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The Israel Antiquities Authority has published multiple findings from Jerusalem's Giv'at Shapira site, revealing significant archaeological artifacts that illuminate the region's ancient history ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). These discoveries contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural and religious transformations in the Levant over millennia.

Recent excavations at Emesa (modern Homs, Syria) reveal the gradual transition from a pagan city to Christian and then Muslim dominance, illustrating the layered religious history of the region ([BiblePlaces](#)). Additionally, rare artifacts such as a half-shekel coin



from the First Jewish Revolt and Crusader swords have been uncovered, enriching the narrative of the area's complex past ([BiblePlaces](#)).

The Israel Museum has relocated key archaeological artifacts to secure locations amid regional instability, ensuring their preservation for future study and public education ([BiblePlaces](#)).

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.