



Global Watch Daily – March 18, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Morad Shwiki, an East Jerusalem bus driver, was fatally shot in Holon amid ongoing organized crime violence, marking the fourth such death in the Arab community this week. At the same time, Israeli forces conducted a raid in a West Bank village under Palestinian Authority control to seize an ancient artifact, underscoring the tense security environment in the region. These incidents occur as missile fire from Iran continues to escalate regional tensions ([Times of Israel](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Israeli Defense Minister Katz confirmed the killing of an Iranian intelligence minister, signaling ongoing covert operations and promising further surprises. The Israeli military also targeted Hezbollah positions across Lebanon following a wave of rocket attacks, issuing evacuation warnings to civilians in Tyre. These military actions highlight the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran-backed groups in the region ([JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israeli strikes have eliminated key Iranian security figures, including Ali Larijani and Basij commander Gholamreza Soleimani, intensifying the campaign against Iran's military leadership. These attacks coincide with expanding US and Israeli operations targeting Iranian military infrastructure, while Tehran prepares for internal unrest amid heightened security measures and economic pressures. The escalation reflects a strategic effort to weaken Iran's operational capabilities ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Commentary highlights the longstanding hostility between Iran and the US, tracing back to declarations of war and multiple acts of aggression since 1979. Discussions also consider potential future negotiations and the complex geopolitical landscape shaped by ongoing military confrontations. Meanwhile, regional attacks by Iranian drones and missiles continue to target oil fields, airports, and military bases, exacerbating instability throughout the Middle East ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



Global Macro & Geopolitics

A US judge has ordered the Trump administration to reopen the Voice of America, reversing layoffs that had cut its staff by 85% amid accusations of bias. The ripple effects of the war in Iran are felt globally, with concerns over energy supplies affecting India's piped gas network and LPG users. Additionally, Israel's partial reopening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt marks a significant development for Palestinian refugees, though challenges persist due to Israeli-backed militias controlling access ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

Recent Israeli strikes in Beirut's city center have caused building collapses and at least a dozen deaths, raising Lebanon's death toll since early March to around 900. Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions extend to the UK, where Brexit is criticized as a strategic error, and the US faces criticism for jeopardizing the handover of the Chagos Islands, the UK's last colony. These events illustrate broader global instability linked to regional conflicts and shifting alliances ([France24](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Innovations in vaccine technology show promise, with DNA origami vaccines offering potential advantages over mRNA platforms, including stronger immune responses and easier manufacturing. Concurrently, MIT scientists have identified a gut protein, intelectin-2, that enhances the mucus barrier and traps harmful bacteria, suggesting new avenues for infection control. These advances could lead to improved treatments for infectious diseases such as COVID-19, HIV, and Ebola ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Research also reveals that severe COVID-19 or influenza infections may increase lung cancer risk years later due to chronic lung inflammation, though vaccination appears protective. Additionally, a new antibiotic, EVG7, is effective against *Clostridioides difficile* infections without harming the beneficial gut microbiota. Historical studies challenge perceptions of medieval disease stigma, showing that even those with leprosy were buried in prestigious graves, indicating more inclusive social attitudes than previously thought ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.5 earthquake near Tecolots, B.C., Mexico, and a magnitude 4.9 event along the Mid-Indian Ridge, reflecting ongoing tectonic



movements. In Alaska, a 3.5-magnitude quake was recorded north-northeast of Chase, highlighting the region's seismic activity. Meanwhile, NASA reports a wave of dust sweeping through Texas caused by an advancing cold front, and preparations continue for the second flight of the experimental X-59 supersonic aircraft, advancing aerospace research. Critical fire weather conditions persist in the High Plains amid a continuing heat wave in the western US ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists in Upper Egypt have uncovered approximately 3,000 ostraca pottery fragments this season, bringing the total to around 43,000 from a single site—the largest known collection of inscribed pottery fragments in Egypt. Meanwhile, the Israel Museum plans to open an exhibition titled “The Girl Who Wrote” once war restrictions lift, offering online activities for children during museum closures. These discoveries and cultural initiatives provide valuable insights into ancient Middle Eastern history and heritage ([BiblePlaces](#); [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.