



## Global Watch Daily – May 13, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

David Barnea, the Mossad chief, reportedly made covert visits to the UAE in early 2026 to coordinate security efforts amid the ongoing war with Iran, highlighting deepening regional intelligence cooperation ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, Lebanon mourns the loss of 13 civilians killed in Israeli strikes, including paramedics responding to earlier attacks, underscoring the heavy toll the conflict continues to exact on noncombatants ([BBC News](#)).

Hamas forces have reportedly obstructed workers involved in a Trump-backed Gaza reconstruction project, marking a rare instance of interference in coordination efforts aimed at peace ([JNS](#)). Concurrently, the United Kingdom has committed jets, drones, and a warship to defend the strategic Strait of Hormuz, joining over 40 nations participating in the mission ([BBC News](#)).

On the diplomatic front, former President Trump faces mounting pressure with limited options regarding Iran as peace talks falter, reflecting heightened geopolitical tensions and growing domestic discontent ([Al Jazeera](#)).

### **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

Reports of a secret Israeli military base in Iraq's Najaf desert have stirred controversy among Iraqi officials amid regional tensions involving Iran-backed militias and US-Israel relations ([Long War Journal](#)). Recently, Israel assassinated the commander of Hezbollah's Radwan Force in Beirut, marking a significant escalation since the ceasefire began ([Long War Journal](#)).

Advanced facial recognition technology has identified three perpetrators of the October 7 Hamas-led massacre, demonstrating the growing role of open-source intelligence in counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, analysis suggests that Iran's nuclear program, though degraded, remains a threat, with chemical weapon contingencies possibly held in reserve ([Long War Journal](#)).



Policy discussions continue with calls to modernize the African Growth and Opportunity Act, reflecting broader security and economic considerations in the region ([FDD](#)). Additionally, a recent analysis offers President Trump advice on how to address Iran, emphasizing the complexities of diplomacy and strategic messaging ([FDD](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

France has confined over 1,700 passengers on a cruise ship docked in Bordeaux following a suspected norovirus-related death, with more than 49 people ill, raising public health concerns ([France24](#); [BBC News](#)).

In environmental news, climbers have cleared a path past a large ice chunk on Mount Everest, preparing for nearly 1,000 summit attempts this season amid ongoing safety concerns ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, Russia has announced a new nuclear missile, the Sarmat, which is expected to be combat-ready by year-end, signaling continued military modernization ([France24](#)).

The Gulf energy crisis highlights Southeast Asia's renewable energy challenges, raising questions about whether the oil shock will hinder or accelerate green energy transitions ([The Diplomat](#)). Additionally, the geopolitics surrounding the upcoming Trump-Xi meeting remain a focal point for international relations and strategic expectations ([The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Scientists have uncovered a molecular mechanism shared by polio and common cold viruses that controls viral replication, offering promising new targets for antiviral therapies ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Research has revealed a novel approach to preventing gum disease by interrupting bacterial communication rather than killing bacteria, thereby promoting healthier oral microbiomes ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural compounds derived from a Brazilian tree show promise against COVID-19 by attacking the virus on multiple fronts, potentially reducing the likelihood of resistance development ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Free-living amoebae, which are resilient to heat and disinfectants, are spreading globally and pose emerging health threats, underscoring the need for improved water treatment and surveillance measures ([ScienceDaily](#)).



## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.3 earthquake near Cobb, California, and a magnitude 1.7 quake south of Whites City, New Mexico, both recorded by the USGS, indicating ongoing low-level tectonic activity ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA highlights Beaver Island in Lake Michigan as a verdant natural jewel, emphasizing the importance of preserving such ecological treasures ([NASA](#)).

Severe thunderstorms and critical fire weather warnings have been issued for Wednesday, underscoring the need for vigilance in affected regions ([weather.gov](#)).

A magnitude 2.4 earthquake struck near Mentone, Texas, further illustrating the varied seismic activity across the United States ([USGS](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Recent archaeological publications by the Israel Antiquities Authority detail findings at Yeroḥam (West) (A-8462), contributing valuable insights into ancient administrative systems in Jerusalem ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Excavations of the Shamash Gate at Nineveh reveal evidence of the city's fall in 612 BC, forming part of ongoing conservation and restoration efforts documented by BiblePlaces ([BiblePlaces](#)).

New studies aim to analyze seal impressions from Jerusalem to shed light on administrative practices during the Old and New Testament eras, enriching the field of biblical archaeology ([BiblePlaces](#)).

Additional visual documentation includes location maps and plans of walls 108–111 at Yeroḥam, supporting detailed archaeological analysis ([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.