



## Global Watch Daily – May 21, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

The US Embassy in Jerusalem extended warm wishes for Shavuot, emphasizing the holiday's deep historical significance that predates modern customs such as cheesecakes and pies ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir sparked international condemnation after a video emerged showing him taunting handcuffed Gaza flotilla activists, drawing criticism from France and Italy ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

In Gaza, sisters Tala and Farah Mousa were honored with the Earth Prize for their innovative method of transforming war rubble into reusable bricks, symbolizing resilience amid ongoing conflict ([Al Jazeera](#)). Additionally, the Israeli military inaugurated its first mikveh on a base, a ritual bath donated in memory of Fred Halpern by philanthropist Cheryl Halpern ([JNS](#)).

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

Following the targeted killing of Hamas military leader Izz al-Din al-Haddad, Mohammed Odeh has assumed command of Hamas's military wing amid ongoing ceasefire violations reported by the IDF in Gaza ([Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have attributed recent drone attacks on their territories to launches from Iraq, increasing pressure on Baghdad to restrain Iranian-backed militias ([Long War Journal](#)).

Satellite imagery reveals the construction of a new wall along the yellow line in Gaza, reflecting ongoing regional security measures ([FDD](#)). In parallel, the UAE has sanctioned a Hezbollah-linked financial network, mirroring US Treasury actions aimed at disrupting the group's economic infrastructure ([Long War Journal](#)).

### **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

A French court found Air France and Airbus guilty of manslaughter in connection with a 2009 plane crash that claimed 228 lives, establishing a significant legal precedent in corporate accountability ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, Europe is experiencing a surge in



sexually transmitted infections, with record levels of gonorrhea and syphilis attributed to gaps in testing and prevention efforts ([BBC News](#)).

The India-Africa Forum Summit was postponed due to an Ebola outbreak in Africa, with the first case confirmed in the Democratic Republic of Congo's South Kivu province, raising public health concerns ([France24](#)). In cultural news, UK soul artist Nectar Woode shared insights into her musical journey and upcoming collaboration with Elton John, highlighting the vibrant global music scene ([France24](#)).

The Philippine Supreme Court rejected a fugitive senator's challenge to an ICC arrest warrant related to anti-drug campaign violence, clearing the way for potential arrest ([The Diplomat](#)). Additionally, Indonesia announced plans to centralize control over key commodity exports, a move that may unsettle international investors concerned about economic policy uncertainty ([The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Recent scientific studies reveal that hidden tooth infections can contribute to systemic inflammation and impaired blood sugar control, with root canal treatments offering benefits beyond oral health ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have also identified a shared vulnerability in polio and common cold viruses, uncovering how viral RNA manipulates host proteins to replicate efficiently ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovative approaches to gum disease focus on disrupting bacterial communication rather than killing microbes, promoting healthier oral flora and revealing oxygen-dependent interactions among bacteria ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, natural compounds from a Brazilian tree show promise against COVID-19 by simultaneously blocking viral entry, replication, and inflammation, potentially reducing the development of resistance ([ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Two minor earthquakes were recorded in California near Big Bear Lake and The Geysers, registering magnitudes of 1.1 and 1.0 respectively, with no reported damage ([USGS](#)). NASA highlighted the role of robotics in establishing a long-term Moon base, showcasing the 2026 FIRST Robotics Competition as a platform for future innovation ([NASA](#)).

Satellite imagery revealed a new volcanic eruption in the Bismarck Sea near Papua New Guinea, indicating ongoing geological activity ([NASA](#)). The Southern Plains and Mississippi



Valley experienced heavy rainfall, with thunderstorms forecast for Eastern Colorado, according to the National Weather Service ([weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)).

### **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Recent archaeological publications from the Israel Antiquities Authority detail discoveries including the Abu Ghosh Abd el-Aziz Street site and Gan Yavne surveys, shedding light on ancient urban layouts and artifacts (Israel Antiquities Authority; Israel Antiquities Authority). Additionally, BiblePlaces reported on a remarkable 2,000-year-old mummy found in Egypt, accompanied by a papyrus fragment of the Iliad, illustrating cultural intersections in antiquity ([BiblePlaces](https://www.bibleplaces.com)).

Other findings include an impressive 50-meter tunnel near Ramat Rahel, likely dating to the Roman period, and a Roman-era statuette fragment discovered in Makhtesh Ramon, expanding knowledge of regional history and artifacts ([BiblePlaces](https://www.bibleplaces.com)). Recent surveys in Gan Yavne and Gan Yavne (Survey S-787/2017) further contribute to understanding settlement patterns in the area ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquities.gov)).

### **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.