



Global Watch Daily – September 17, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Labour Party disciplined MP Tahir Alir following controversial remarks he made during a House of Commons debate. Meanwhile, a “carpet” of microalgae disrupted operations at five of Israel’s six desalination plants, severely impacting the country’s water supply. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem announced plans to sell products from Judea and Samaria at its annual Feast of Tabernacles gathering this month, signaling continued support for these regions despite European sanctions. ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [JNS](#))

Al Jazeera also covered regional developments affecting Israel and Jerusalem. ([Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Baghdad faces increasing pressure over militia activities and ongoing Iranian strikes targeting Kurdish Iranian opposition groups based within Iraq. On September 12, federal authorities arrested Jonathan Hunter Kramer in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, for allegedly acquiring a semiautomatic rifle and ammunition in preparation for an attack inspired by the Islamic State. United States officials have expressed frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for resisting aspects of their Gaza strategy. The US-backed Board of Peace, which oversees Gaza’s political transition, has faced delays as Netanyahu stalls several initiatives amid a tight election campaign. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Following a major offensive launched on August 6, the Houthis have seized Yemen’s entire Red Sea coast and a strategic island in the Bab al Mandeb Strait by September 11. Yemeni Armed Forces have initiated counteroperations to regain control. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#))

In response to drone strikes on Saudi Arabia’s East-West Crude Oil Pipeline on September 11, the Iraqi government confirmed the attacks originated from Iraqi territory. Riyadh subsequently closed the pipeline, a critical alternative oil export route following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#))



Israeli Army Radio reported that Israeli troops withdrew from a contested ridge, reflecting the ongoing challenges on the ground. Progress remains contingent on Hamas's disarmament and Israel's evolving political landscape. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Savita Subramanian, head of US equity and quantitative strategy at BofA Securities, described the current market environment as lacking robustness, even as she raised her year-end target for the S&P 500 to 7,400 and anticipates a market pullback. In parallel, the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin are accelerating production of a new classified air-to-air missile for US Air Force and Navy jets, a critical component in deterring China's growing military capabilities. These developments underscore ongoing great-power rivalry and strategic military posturing. ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#))

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Once every artificial intelligence company can put a capable engineer in front of a customer, proximity to the problem may stop being what separates you. In early September, OpenAI announced it had solved a major mathematics problem that has stumped humans for nearly a century. The news left mathematicians reeling, and many expressed concern over what will be left for humans as artificial intelligence becomes ever more adept at unraveling complex problems ([forbes.com](#); [The Guardian](#)).

Universities need to protect their position in education so that students have an independent pathway to employment; artificial intelligence companies like OpenAI are insinuating themselves into the pathway from education to work. Soon they may claim it entirely, a disastrous result for students. We know students use artificial intelligence at school and university ([biometricupdate.com](#); [The Guardian](#)).

Socure and Nextgen ID have struck a strategic partnership to combine artificial intelligence-powered digital identity intelligence with the highest possible biometric identity assurance. Socure's real-time identity resolution and fraud intelligence integrates with Nextgen ID's Identity Assurance Level 3-certified identity proofing and credentialing. New research from HYPR shows that when it comes to hiring fraud, most of the detection work is still being done by people, not security systems, as deepfakes and artificial intelligence-assisted fraud make it easier to pass security screening. Moreover, many HR professionals see hiring fraud as something that surely couldn't happen to them - even



though it already has. Alexis Ohanian said artificial intelligence risks are more mundane than the “Terminator and Skynet” scenarios some fear ([biometricupdate.com](https://www.biometricupdate.com); [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com)).

Reports of earlier agent collaboration deepen concerns about OpenAI’s Hugging Face breach and autonomous behavior ([forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Ancient DNA analysis reveals that plague affected hunter-gatherer populations in Siberia 5,500 years ago, predating urban centers and flea-driven epidemics. These prehistoric strains may have been particularly virulent due to a genetic factor that triggered severe immune responses. Additionally, research into long-lived bats shows they combine robust immune defenses with unique cellular repair mechanisms, enabling them to avoid cancer and disease for extended periods. Scientists hope to apply these genetic insights to improve human health and aging. ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com); [ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 3.1 earthquake near Puerto Real, Puerto Rico, and a magnitude 5.1 earthquake near San Jose Village in the Northern Mariana Islands. ([USGS](https://www.usgs.gov); [USGS](https://www.usgs.gov))

A magnitude 6.5 earthquake was also recorded near Teluknaga, Indonesia. Additionally, Brazil issued a green forest fire alert. ([USGS](https://www.usgs.gov); [GDACS](https://www.gdacs.org))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Published by the Survey of Israel and Donald T. Ariel on October 31, 2002, recent archaeological reports detail significant findings. Excavations of the agora at Smyrna uncovered three rooms adorned with wall paintings and mosaics. For nearly 180 years, research at Nimrud in northern Iraq has focused on palaces and temples, shedding light on ancient Mesopotamian civilization. These discoveries continue to enrich our understanding of the region’s historical and cultural heritage. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org); [Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org); [BiblePlaces](https://www.bibleplaces.org); [Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org))