



Global Watch Daily – December 14, 2025

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Recent events in Israel and among Jewish communities worldwide have been marked by violence and heightened tensions. A tragic shooting at Bondi Beach in Australia, targeting a Jewish Hanukkah celebration, resulted in twelve deaths. Australian Jews expressed that while they were horrified by the attack, they were not shocked, attributing it to ongoing incitement and antisemitism in the region ([Times of Israel](#)). The shooter was tackled by a bystander, who has been hailed as a hero for his intervention ([Al-Monitor](#)). The attack has sparked international reactions, with Israel blaming Australia for ignoring rising antisemitism ([France24](#)).

In Gaza, discussions continue regarding its future as the United States plans a stabilization force to address ongoing conflict and humanitarian concerns ([Israel365 News](#)). Meanwhile, Hamas has rejected calls for disarmament and confirmed the death of a senior commander, Saad, in an Israeli strike ([Times of Israel](#)).

Additional incidents of antisemitism have been reported globally, including a Toronto woman who was ejected from an Uber after speaking Hebrew ([JNS](#)), and Australian Jews feeling abandoned following the Sydney terror attack, which was fueled by years of antisemitic incitement ([Israel365 News](#)). Volunteers are reaching out to isolated seniors during Chanukah and beyond to provide support ([JNS](#)).

On the legal front within Israel, a man who buried a 17-year-old girl alive, causing her death, was sentenced to seven years in prison ([Times of Israel](#)). The Israeli Defense Forces issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, indicating heightened military preparedness ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The security situation in the Middle East and surrounding regions remains volatile. In Syria, an Islamic State ambush in Palmyra resulted in the deaths of three Americans and injuries to three others ([Long War Journal](#)). The Syrian gunman responsible for killing three



Americans was reportedly due to be dismissed from security forces for extremist views prior to the attack ([France24](#)). Additionally, two US troops and an American civilian were killed in Syria in an Islamic State ambush, prompting a vow of retaliation from former President Trump ([France24](#)).

In Ukraine, government forces have regained ground from Russian troops in the Kupiansk area, signaling ongoing shifts in the conflict there ([Long War Journal](#)). The Israeli government is taking steps to secure its most vulnerable border, reflecting concerns over regional security threats ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Islamic State's campaign against Christians has escalated sharply despite ongoing peace efforts, highlighting the ongoing persecution of believers in the region ([International Christian Concern](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

Religious landscapes continue to shift with significant developments in Christian communities and broader religious trends. Rev. Brian Kaylor discussed the concept of the "War Gospel" as presented by Pete Hegseth, emphasizing the spiritual dimensions of current conflicts ([Religion News Service](#)). Meanwhile, a feature on life in a monastery explores the pursuit of joy and meaning within a monastic setting ([Religion News Service](#)).

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has threatened to bar federal funding for six years to Sister Norma Pimentel's migrant aid organization, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, raising concerns about support for humanitarian efforts ([Religion News Service](#)).

Christian persecution remains a pressing issue globally. The European Union has discussed increased persecution of Christians in South Asia, underscoring the need for vigilance and advocacy ([International Christian Concern](#)). In Vietnam, the government has remained silent on the case of a Christian refugee who was extradited, raising fears for religious freedom ([International Christian Concern](#)).

On a cultural note, the recent murder of acclaimed singer Jubilant Sykes, associated with Grace Community Church, has been reported, marking a tragic loss for the Christian music community ([Crosswalk](#)). Additionally, Merriam-Webster's edited version of the Christmas hymn "Which Child Is This?" has drawn backlash, reflecting ongoing debates over religious expression in popular culture ([Crosswalk](#)).



Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Recent scientific studies have revealed new insights into health and biotechnology. Research indicates that tea consumption may strengthen bones in older women, whereas heavy coffee intake could weaken them ([ScienceDaily](#)). Advances in neuroscience have identified a “brain switch” that could revolutionize treatment approaches for mental illnesses ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Additionally, the diabetes medication Ozempic has been found to offer unexpected benefits for brain health, suggesting potential new therapeutic uses ([ScienceDaily](#)). Innovative research in sustainable food production has developed a scaffold based on uncoated rice grains integrated with piscine cells, aiming to support environmentally friendly food sources ([Nature](#)).

In medical technology, implantable neural probes with integrated carbon nanotube field-effect transistor arrays have been developed for multimodal monitoring, representing a significant step forward in neural interface technology ([Nature Communications](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Global health trends show some positive developments alongside ongoing challenges. Studies report a rapid decline in anxiety and depression among children following COVID-19 school reopenings, indicating mental health improvements in younger populations ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Artificial intelligence has identified a surprising vulnerability in monkeypox, which could lead to the development of more effective vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#)). Furthermore, NAD+ supplements show early promise in alleviating long COVID symptoms such as fatigue and brain fog ([ScienceDaily](#)).

European health authorities have released reports on avian influenza from September to November 2025, highlighting ongoing surveillance and response efforts ([ECDC](#)). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has also outlined strategies to combat avian and swine flu transmission to humans ([ECDC](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent natural events include several minor earthquakes worldwide. Notably, a magnitude 2.0 earthquake occurred 14 kilometers south-southwest of Pa‘auilo, Hawaii ([USGS](#)).



Additional small tremors were recorded near The Geysers and Fillmore in California ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

The Semeru volcano in Indonesia recently erupted, prompting a volcanic ash advisory and continued monitoring of volcanic activity ([Volcano Discovery](#)). Other active volcanoes being observed include Santiaguito, Fuego, Popocatépetl, Ibu, Marapi, Reventador, and Sangay ([Volcano Discovery](#)).

In space exploration news, NASA astronaut Jonny Kim is scheduled to discuss his recent eight-month mission aboard the International Space Station, sharing insights into long-duration spaceflight ([NASA](#)). NASA's Webb Space Telescope and Curiosity rover have been inducted into TIME's Best Inventions Hall of Fame, recognizing their contributions to science and discovery ([NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Global political dynamics continue to evolve with significant developments. Thousands of carveouts and caveats are reportedly weakening the effectiveness of former President Trump's emergency tariffs on U.S. imports, raising questions about the enforcement of trade policy ([Politico](#)).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has indicated a willingness to drop demands for NATO membership accession as part of ongoing diplomatic efforts, signaling potential shifts in Ukraine's strategic positioning ([Politico Europe](#)).

In Australia, the Bondi Beach shooting during a Jewish Hanukkah celebration has been widely condemned as an act of terrorism, with the gunman's actions reverberating across the nation and internationally ([Politico Europe](#)).

Belarus has recently freed Nobel Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski and opposition figure Maria Kolesnikova, along with 123 other prisoners, in exchange for the lifting of U.S. sanctions, marking a notable development in Eastern European politics ([France24](#); [France24](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological discoveries continue to shed light on the ancient history of Jerusalem and the surrounding region. An Assyrian inscription dating from the First Temple period was recently uncovered, providing valuable historical insights ([City of David - News in Antiquities](#)).



The largest dam from ancient Israel has been excavated in the City of David, revealing advanced water management techniques used in biblical times ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)). Additionally, a rare gold coin belonging to Egyptian Queen Berenice II was discovered in the same area, highlighting the region’s historical connections ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

A rare coin from the Year Four Revolt, symbolizing the redemption of Zion, was also found in Jerusalem, adding to the rich archaeological record of the city’s turbulent history ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Reflection

The current global landscape reveals a world marked by conflict, persecution, and rapid change, especially centered around Israel and the broader Middle East. The ongoing violence against Jewish communities, the persistent threats from militant groups, and the geopolitical shifts underscore the fragile state of peace and security. At the same time, the discovery of ancient artifacts reminds us of the enduring history and God’s faithfulness to His covenant people throughout the ages. Scientific advances in biotechnology and health offer hope for healing and restoration, even as the church faces growing challenges from apostasy and persecution worldwide.

As believers, we are called to remain steadfast in faith, trusting in the sovereignty of God who holds history in His hands. The Scriptures provide assurance that despite turmoil, God’s promises endure, and His purposes will ultimately prevail. In these turbulent times, the church must pray earnestly, stand firm in truth, and shine as a light in darkness.

- Pray for the peace and protection of Israel and Jerusalem amid ongoing threats.
- Intercede for persecuted Christians worldwide, especially in regions of conflict and oppression.
- Ask God for discernment, courage, and faithfulness for believers navigating these challenging times.