



Global Watch Daily – December 21, 2025

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israeli police have arrested three Gazans accused of invading Israel on October 7, though some security sources dispute their involvement in the incident ([Times of Israel](#)). A crowd of approximately 10,000 gathered on Bondi Beach to commemorate one week since the Hanukkah terror attack, demonstrating international solidarity with Israel ([Times of Israel](#)). The rescue of an Israeli from Jericho highlights ongoing coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the Israel Defense Forces, reflecting complex security cooperation amid tensions ([Times of Israel](#)). An Israeli grassroots hostage families group has grown into a powerful international force advocating for the release of captives, demonstrating the strength of community and faith ([BBC](#)). The Defense Ministry will conduct a military exercise on Highway 35 on Sunday afternoon, part of ongoing readiness efforts ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In Iran, an annual environmental phenomenon has turned rivers blood red, raising concerns about ecological and symbolic implications ([Israel365 News](#)). The Israel Defense Forces have issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, signaling escalating military preparations ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Reflecting on the significance of Chanukah, commentators discuss the themes of universal Zionism and the critical moment Israel finds itself in today ([Israel365 News](#)). An article highlights eight wartime Chanukah miracles that have shaped Israel's destiny, offering encouragement amid ongoing conflict ([Israel365 News](#)).

A newly released photograph shows former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak alongside Jeffrey Epstein, drawing attention to historical controversies ([JNS](#)). The Israeli president has declared antisemitism a 'global emergency,' underscoring the urgent need for international vigilance and action ([JNS](#)). A Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow has forced the closure of an airport, reflecting the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia ([Jerusalem Post](#)).



Senator Lindsey Graham has warned that Hamas and Hezbollah are actively rearming, posing ongoing security threats to Israel and the region ([JNS](#)). The United States has carried out a ‘massive’ strike against Islamic State targets in Syria, continuing its campaign against terrorism ([BBC](#)). From the Andes to Darfur, reports reveal how Colombians have been lured into Sudan’s killing fields, highlighting the global nature of conflict and human trafficking ([Al-Monitor](#)).

A Syrian monitor reports that recent US airstrikes killed at least five Islamic State members, demonstrating continued counterterrorism efforts in the region ([Al-Monitor](#)). Lebanese Prime Minister states that Lebanon is close to completing the disarmament of Hezbollah forces south of the Litani River, a significant development for regional stability ([Al-Monitor](#)). Human rights groups have condemned a new record number of executions in Saudi Arabia, raising concerns about justice and human dignity ([BBC](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The United States has launched widespread airstrikes against Islamic State positions in Syria following a deadly attack in Palmyra, intensifying efforts to dismantle terrorist networks ([Long War Journal](#)). US officials have highlighted ongoing anti-Islamic State operations after soldiers were killed in Syria, underscoring the persistent threat of terrorism in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). The US continues to emphasize anti-Islamic State operations following the deaths of soldiers in Syria, maintaining focus on regional security ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)). An analysis titled “Generation Jihad” explores the complexities of fighting terror with terror, reflecting on the challenges of counterterrorism strategies ([Long War Journal](#)).

Experts warn that Chinese economic statecraft poses a national security threat to the United States, highlighting the geopolitical dimensions of economic policy ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)). Ukraine has struck Russia’s ‘shadow fleet’ tanker in the Mediterranean, signaling ongoing maritime conflict and strategic targeting ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

A recent article discusses the Heidelberg Catechism in the context of emerging AI griefbots, raising questions about faith and technology ([The Gospel Coalition](#)). An exploration of John Calvin’s preference for the Lord’s Day over Christmas emphasizes holiness beyond holidays, encouraging believers to focus on true worship ([The Gospel](#)



[Coalition](#)). Martin Luther's joyful approach to Christmas is highlighted in an article titled 'Sing, Dear Children,' celebrating the season's spiritual significance ([The Gospel Coalition](#)). A feature titled 'Rising Through Faith' shares stories of perseverance and spiritual growth amid trials ([Open Doors](#)).

Tragic news reports the death of the Brown University shooter by self-inflicted gunshot wound, a sobering reminder of brokenness in society ([Crosswalk](#)). Candace Cameron Bure shares her commitment to being bold for Jesus, expressing a desire to be on God's side of history in these critical days ([Crosswalk](#)). Millions of Christians worldwide must secretly celebrate Christmas due to persecution, underscoring the cost of faith in many regions ([Open Doors](#)). Five Iranian Christians have been sentenced to prison, highlighting ongoing religious persecution in the region ([Open Doors](#)).

Forrest Frank and his wife Grace rejoice over the birth of their son Sonny, a moment of hope and new life amid challenging times ([Crosswalk](#)).

Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

A large study has provided answers regarding the safety of a vegan diet for children, offering valuable insights for parents and health professionals ([Science Daily](#)). Research indicates that deaths of despair were rising long before the opioid crisis, suggesting deeper societal issues at play ([Science Daily](#)). Scientists have cracked the code on the "junk DNA" linked to Alzheimer's disease, solving a 98% mystery that may lead to new treatments ([Science Daily](#)).

A new injectable biological hydrogel has been developed to create a rich vascular subcutaneous space for cell transplantation, advancing regenerative medicine ([Nature](#)). Comparative studies on four *Lagerstroemia indica* cultivars reveal their tolerance and phytoremediation potential under cadmium stress, contributing to environmental biotechnology ([Nature](#)). Researchers have developed a holistic valorisation process for lemon peel into textile materials using fungal chitosan and micro- and nano-fibrillated cellulose, promoting sustainable materials science ([Nature](#)).

Francis Collins shares his view of science as a glimpse into God's mind, reflecting on the harmony between faith and scientific inquiry ([STAT News](#)). The FDA has approved Cytokinetics' heart drug Myqorzo, marking a significant milestone for the biotech company ([STAT News](#)). Drugmakers have promised to stockpile certain medications as part of new drug pricing agreements, aiming to ensure supply stability ([STAT News](#)).



Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have discovered a new method to prevent gum disease without eliminating beneficial bacteria, advancing oral health care ([Science Daily](#)). Researchers have identified viral suspects that may contribute to long COVID symptoms, providing new directions for treatment ([Science Daily](#)). Studies show that children's anxiety and depression levels dropped rapidly following the reopening of schools after COVID-19 closures, highlighting the importance of in-person education ([Science Daily](#)).

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has released an overview of avian influenza cases from September to November 2025, informing ongoing surveillance efforts ([ECDC](#)). The ECDC's communicable disease threats report for week 49 (29 November – 5 December 2025) provides critical data on emerging health threats in Europe ([ECDC](#)). ECDC has defined new strategies to combat avian and swine flu in humans, aiming to prevent future pandemics ([ECDC](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

A volcanic ash advisory has been issued for Puracé Volcano, indicating light volcanic ash emissions and potential impacts on air travel ([Volcano Discovery](#)). The World Earthquake Report for Sunday, December 21, 2025, details recent seismic activity globally, including minor tremors in California and Puerto Rico ([Volcano Discovery](#)). Volcanoes active today include Santiaguito, Fuego, Semeru, Ibu, Dukono, Reventador, Sangay, and Puracé, reminding us of the earth's dynamic forces ([Volcano Discovery](#)).

Recent earthquakes include a magnitude 0.6 event northeast of Pine Valley, California ([USGS](#)), a magnitude 2.7 northwest of San Antonio, Puerto Rico ([USGS](#)), and a magnitude 1.0 near Loma Linda, California ([USGS](#)).

NASA's Artemis II crew has rehearsed their launch day demonstration, preparing for the next phase of lunar exploration ([NASA](#)). Scientists are investigating wind-sculpted landscapes on Mars, including the Martian megaripple named 'Hazyview,' expanding our understanding of planetary geology ([NASA](#)). NASA has shared assignments for the SpaceX Crew-12 mission to the International Space Station, marking continued progress in human spaceflight ([NASA](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Paris has welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin's expressed readiness for bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron concerning the Ukraine conflict, signaling potential diplomatic progress ([Politico](#)). France is preparing to pursue an independent European defense strategy, reflecting shifting security priorities within the continent ([Politico](#)). Ukraine talks are reportedly proceeding constructively in Miami, according to Russia's envoy Kirill Dmitriev, offering cautious hope for conflict resolution ([Politico](#)).

The United Arab Emirates recently hosted French President Macron for security talks, emphasizing regional cooperation on security issues ([France24](#)). The UN has declared that the famine in Gaza is over but warns that the situation remains critical, highlighting ongoing humanitarian challenges ([France24](#)). US officials confirm at least five killed in retaliatory strikes against Islamic State group targets in Syria, continuing the fight against terrorism ([France24](#)).

The French presidency welcomes Putin's willingness to hold talks on Ukraine, signaling a possible diplomatic opening ([France24](#)). Ukraine has struck a Russian shadow fleet tanker in the Mediterranean Sea, reflecting ongoing maritime conflict ([France24](#)). US and Russian officials are scheduled to meet in Florida for further Ukraine talks, underscoring the importance of diplomacy ([France24](#)). Ukrainian President Zelensky asserts that only the United States can persuade Russia to end the war in Ukraine, highlighting America's pivotal role ([France24](#)).

Gunmen killed nine people in a tavern attack in South Africa, a tragic reminder of ongoing violence in the region ([BBC](#)). Human rights groups have condemned a record number of executions in Saudi Arabia, raising global concerns about justice ([BBC](#)). A minute's silence was held to remember victims of the Bondi Beach attack, reflecting global mourning and solidarity ([BBC](#)).

Russia's Chinese-enabled drone supply network is reshaping modern warfare, demonstrating the evolving nature of military technology ([The Diplomat](#)). Despite US sales of H200 AI chips to China, the latter has shown limited purchasing, raising questions about technological competition ([The Diplomat](#)). US arms sales to Taiwan continue, signaling policy continuity amid regional tensions ([The Diplomat](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

A rare 1,300-year-old lead pendant decorated with a menorah symbol was uncovered north of the City of David, shedding light on Jewish heritage in the region ([City of David -](#)



[News in Antiquities](#)).

An Assyrian inscription dating from the First Temple period was discovered, providing valuable historical insights ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Archaeologists have uncovered the largest dam in ancient Israel within the City of David, highlighting advanced ancient engineering ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

A rare gold coin of Egyptian Queen Berenice II was discovered in the City of David, linking the region to broader ancient Mediterranean history ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Israel & Jerusalem

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Reflection

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and across the globe, we are reminded of the persistent challenges facing God's people and the nations. The ongoing conflicts, security threats, and persecution underscore the reality of a fallen world in need of divine intervention. Yet, amid turmoil, the miracles of Chanukah and the steadfast faith of believers worldwide testify to God's sustaining grace and sovereignty.

In these times, Christians are called to pray fervently for peace, justice, and protection for Israel and all persecuted believers. We must also seek wisdom to engage the complexities of geopolitics and technological advances with a biblical worldview, trusting that God's purposes will prevail. May our hearts be encouraged by the hope we have in Christ, the Prince of Peace.

- Pray for God's protection over Israel and its neighbors amid ongoing conflicts.
- Ask the Lord to strengthen persecuted Christians who must worship in secret.
- Seek God's wisdom for leaders navigating global security and technological challenges.