



Global Watch Daily – December 22, 2025

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

Israel & Jerusalem

As tensions remain high in the region, Israel continues to prepare for potential escalations. The Israel Defense Forces issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of anticipated strikes, signaling readiness to act decisively against threats ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The Defense Ministry also announced a military exercise on Highway 35 to enhance rapid-response readiness ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Israeli officials warned of Iran's missile capabilities, stressing the urgency of preventing Tehran from restocking its arsenal ([JNS](#)).

Domestic tensions remain elevated as three individuals were arrested during a protest at the Prime Minister's office by supporters demanding accountability in the investigation of the October 7 attacks ([Times of Israel](#)). The Israeli military is also examining the killing of a Palestinian teenager in the West Bank, highlighting the complexity of ongoing security operations in contested areas ([Al-Monitor](#)).

Israel approved the establishment of 19 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, a move that has drawn international criticism and intensified debate over the region's future ([BBC](#); [France24](#)). Israel's foreign minister also urged Jews worldwide to consider aliyah in response to rising global antisemitism ([JNS](#)).

Stories of faith and endurance continue to emerge, including testimony from former hostage Omer Shem Tov, who described how Psalm 20 sustained him during 505 days of captivity under Hamas ([Israel365 News](#)). In another symbolic act, Shiri Bibas's sister lit a Chanukah menorah in Rafah, reflecting hope amid hardship ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The United States launched widespread airstrikes against Islamic State positions in Syria following a deadly attack in Palmyra, intensifying counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). US officials reiterated the importance of sustained operations after American soldiers were killed in Syria ([Long War Journal](#); [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).



Beyond the Middle East, Ukraine struck a Russian “shadow fleet” tanker in the Mediterranean, underscoring the widening geographic scope of the conflict with Moscow ([Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)).

Apostasy & Religious Developments

Reflections on faith in a digital age continue as theologians examine emerging technologies such as AI griefbots through the lens of historic Christian doctrine ([The Gospel Coalition](#)). Reports also highlight the growing persecution of Christians worldwide, with millions forced to celebrate Christmas in secret and Iranian believers sentenced to prison for their faith ([Open Doors](#); [Open Doors](#)).

Public figures such as Candace Cameron Bure have spoken openly about their commitment to Christ, encouraging believers to stand firm in turbulent cultural times ([Crosswalk](#)). Tragedy also struck at Brown University, where a shooter was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound ([Crosswalk](#)).

Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Advances in biotechnology continue to reshape medicine, with new research offering hope for the treatment of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease ([Science Daily](#)). Scientists are also advancing regenerative medicine through innovative tissue-engineering techniques ([Nature](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists continue to uncover significant artifacts in the City of David, including a rare 1,300-year-old lead pendant decorated with a menorah and inscriptions from the First Temple period, offering deeper insight into ancient Jewish life ([City of David – News in Antiquities](#); [City of David – News in Antiquities](#)).

Reflection

The unfolding events across Israel and the nations remind believers that history is moving according to God’s sovereign purposes. Conflict, persecution, and uncertainty testify to a fallen world, yet stories of faith, endurance, and hope continue to shine as evidence of God’s sustaining grace.



In these times, the Church is called to vigilance, prayer, and faithful witness. May believers remain anchored in Scripture, discerning the times with wisdom while trusting in Christ, the Prince of Peace.

- Pray for wisdom and protection for Israel and its leaders.
- Intercede for persecuted Christians who must worship in secret.
- Ask God for discernment as technology and geopolitics reshape the world.