



Global Watch Daily – December 23, 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 the surrounding region reveal ongoing tensions and political challenges. Libya's military chief and seven others died in a plane crash shortly after taking off from Turkey, underscoring instability in North Africa ([Times of Israel](#)). At the United Nations Security Council, the United States and Iran clashed over the conditions necessary to revive nuclear talks, reflecting the persistent difficulties in diplomatic efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions ([Times of Israel](#)). In Australia, lawmakers have advanced bills aimed at curbing gun ownership and protests, a response to the recent Bondi attack, signaling global concerns about security and civil order ([Times of Israel](#)).

Within Israel, political intrigue continues as former Prime Minister Netanyahu's ex-aide accused him of orchestrating an intelligence leak to the German newspaper Bild and subsequently lying about it, highlighting internal political strife ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Israel is preparing for a second phase of conflict in Gaza as Hamas resumes its regime of terror, emphasizing the ongoing security challenges faced by the nation ([JNS](#)). The Israeli Defense Forces have issued evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, indicating heightened military readiness ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In Jerusalem, an Anglican lay minister has been nominated for the role of security coordinator, reflecting efforts to maintain peace and security in the city ([JNS](#)). Additionally, Israel has approved 19 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, a move that is likely to affect the geopolitical landscape and peace negotiations ([BBC](#)). The government has also extended an order allowing the closure of foreign broadcasters, a measure that raises questions about media freedom during times of conflict ([BBC](#)).

Humanitarian concerns persist as NGOs warn that new Israeli registration rules risk the collapse of aid operations in Gaza, potentially exacerbating the suffering of civilians caught in the conflict ([BBC](#)). A baby who was treated abroad has returned to a Gaza



hospital, symbolizing the ongoing medical challenges faced by the population ([BBC](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The security situation across the Middle East remains volatile with multiple fronts of conflict and political uncertainty. Iraqi militias remain divided over disarming and accepting government control, complicating efforts to stabilize the country ([Long War Journal](#)). In Libya, the parliament speaker has declared the maritime deal with Turkey invalid but expressed openness to renegotiation, reflecting ongoing disputes over territorial and economic rights ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon have continued through mid-December, demonstrating Israel's proactive stance against threats on its northern border ([Long War Journal](#)). The United States has launched widespread airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria following a deadly attack in Palmyra, signaling a renewed commitment to combating terrorism in the region ([Long War Journal](#)).

Despite these efforts, Syria's integration deal is nearing collapse, indicating persistent instability in the Assad regime's control ([FDD](#)). Concerns grow over Iran's expanding ballistic missile arsenal, raising fears of a potential new Middle East war ([FDD](#)). Meanwhile, former President Trump's Syria strategy faces challenges amid a resurgence of ISIS in Damascus ([FDD](#)).

Technological dependencies also emerge as the Pentagon and major artificial intelligence companies reveal a critical reliance on Chinese battery technology, exposing strategic vulnerabilities ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Globally, political and social dynamics continue to evolve with significant developments. In the United States, a tragic explosion at a Pennsylvania nursing home has resulted in at least two deaths, highlighting ongoing concerns about safety and emergency preparedness ([BBC](#)). The Murdoch media dynasty faces internal rivalries and rumors as the new order takes shape, reflecting the complexities of global media influence ([BBC](#)).

In Brazil, the Supreme Court has allowed former President Bolsonaro to leave prison temporarily for surgery, a development with potential political ramifications ([BBC](#)). The United States has denied visas to a former European Union commissioner and others over social media regulations, indicating ongoing tensions over digital governance ([BBC](#)).



In Africa, Senegal has begun its campaign in the Africa Cup of Nations 2025 with a victory over Botswana, a moment of national pride and sporting significance ([France24](#)). France's National Assembly has passed an emergency budget bill to prevent a government shutdown, demonstrating political pragmatism in a time of fiscal challenge ([France24](#)).

In Moscow, the killing of a Tajik boy has sparked debate about the motive, revealing underlying ethnic and social tensions ([The Diplomat](#)). South Korea's labor model continues to have strategic consequences for the region's economic and political landscape ([The Diplomat](#)). Meanwhile, China quietly maintains its stake in post-Assad Syria, expanding its influence in the Middle East ([The Diplomat](#)).

India's navy is enhancing its combat aviation capabilities, signaling a strengthening of its maritime defense posture ([The Diplomat](#)). In Australia, debates continue over the need for additional hate speech laws, reflecting societal struggles with free speech and social harmony ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientific advances offer hope in the fight against persistent health challenges. Researchers have identified new viral suspects that may contribute to long COVID symptoms, potentially opening new avenues for treatment ([ScienceDaily](#)). A novel approach to preventing gum disease has been developed that preserves beneficial bacteria, representing a significant step forward in oral health care ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Mental health improvements have been observed in children following school reopenings after COVID-19 closures, with anxiety and depression rates dropping rapidly, highlighting the importance of social environments for youth well-being ([ScienceDaily](#)). In the realm of infectious diseases, artificial intelligence has identified a surprising weak spot in monkeypox virus, which could lead to more effective vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, supplements boosting NAD+ show early promise in alleviating long COVID fatigue and brain fog, offering hope for sufferers ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity remains relatively low but persistent in various regions of the United States. Recent minor earthquakes have been recorded near Chickaloon, Alaska, and multiple locations in California and New Mexico, indicating ongoing tectonic movements ([USGS Alaska](#)), ([USGS California](#)), ([USGS California](#)), ([USGS New Mexico](#)), ([USGS California](#)).



In space exploration, NASA continues preparations for the Artemis II mission with crew rehearsals and demonstrations ahead of launch, marking significant progress in returning humans to the Moon ([NASA](#)), ([NASA](#)). The Artemis closeout crew has been introduced, and astronaut Nick Hague has retired, marking transitions in the space program ([NASA](#)), ([NASA](#)). Satellite data initiatives like OPERA continue to address societal needs, enhancing Earth science capabilities ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David archaeological site continues to reveal new antiquities, enriching understanding of Jerusalem's ancient history and biblical heritage. These discoveries provide valuable context for the region's spiritual and cultural significance ([City of David](#)).

Reflection

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and the broader world, we are reminded of the fragile nature of peace and the persistent challenges of conflict and governance. The ongoing tensions in the Middle East, coupled with global political shifts and health advancements, call us to pray for wisdom, justice, and healing. In a world marked by uncertainty, the steadfast hope found in Christ remains our anchor.

Let us also remember the innocent victims caught in conflicts and crises, and seek God's guidance for leaders to pursue peace and righteousness. May the discoveries in ancient Jerusalem inspire us to cherish the spiritual heritage that connects us across generations.

- Pray for peace and protection for Israel and its neighbors amid ongoing conflicts.
- Ask God to grant wisdom and integrity to global leaders navigating complex geopolitical challenges.
- Intercede for healing and hope for those suffering from illness, violence, and displacement worldwide.