



Global Watch Daily – December 24, 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 highlight ongoing tensions and political complexities. Libya's military chief and seven others died in a plane crash shortly after departing 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 stalled nuclear negotiations, reflecting persistent challenges in diplomatic efforts ([Times of Israel](#)). In Australia, lawmakers have moved forward with legislation to curb gun ownership and public protests following a recent attack, indicating a global concern for public safety ([Times of Israel](#)).

In Israeli political news, former Prime Minister Netanyahu faces allegations from an ex-aide claiming he orchestrated an intelligence leak to the German newspaper Bild and subsequently lied about it, stirring controversy within the government ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Israel is preparing for a second phase of conflict in Gaza as Hamas continues its campaign of terror, emphasizing the fragile security situation ([JNS](#)). The Anglican Church has nominated a lay minister for the role of Jerusalem security coordinator, reflecting ongoing efforts to maintain peace and order in the city ([JNS](#)).

The Israeli Defense Forces have issued evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, signaling escalating military tensions in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Additionally, a Ukrainian drone attack forced the closure of Moscow's airport, highlighting the widening scope of conflict beyond the Middle East ([Jerusalem Post](#)). On the humanitarian front, NGOs warn that new Israeli registration rules threaten to collapse aid operations in Gaza, raising concerns about the welfare of civilians caught in the conflict ([BBC](#)).

Israel has also extended an order allowing the closure of foreign broadcasters, a move that may impact media coverage during this sensitive period ([BBC](#)). Furthermore, the government approved the establishment of 19 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, a decision likely to influence future peace negotiations ([BBC](#)).



Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The broader Middle East remains volatile, with Iraqi militias divided over disarming and accepting government control, reflecting ongoing struggles for stability in Iraq ([Long War Journal](#)). In Libya, the parliament speaker declared the maritime deal with Turkey invalid but expressed willingness to renegotiate, signaling potential shifts in regional alliances ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon have continued through mid-December, underscoring the persistent threat from this group ([Long War Journal](#)). The United States has launched widespread airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria following a deadly attack in Palmyra, demonstrating ongoing counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#)).

Despite these efforts, ISIS activity remains a concern, with U.S. officials highlighting anti-Islamic State operations after the killing of soldiers in Syria ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, Syria's integration deal is nearing collapse, indicating the fragility of political arrangements in the war-torn country ([FDD](#)).

Concerns are rising about Iran's expanding ballistic missile arsenal, which some analysts fear could trigger a new Middle Eastern war ([FDD](#)). Additionally, former President Trump's Syria strategy is being tested amid a resurgence of ISIS in Damascus, complicating U.S. foreign policy in the region ([FDD](#)). Technological dependencies are also noted, as both the Pentagon and major artificial intelligence companies rely heavily on Chinese battery supplies, revealing strategic vulnerabilities ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Globally, a tragic explosion at a Pennsylvania nursing home resulted in at least two deaths, highlighting ongoing concerns about safety in vulnerable populations ([BBC](#)). The Murdoch family's internal rivalries and rumors continue to shape the media landscape, reflecting the influence of powerful dynasties on global information flows ([BBC](#)).

In South America, Brazil's Supreme Court has permitted former President Bolsonaro to leave prison temporarily for surgery, a development with political implications ([BBC](#)). The release of new Epstein files has brought renewed attention to controversies involving former President Trump, including allegations of conspiracies and misinformation ([BBC](#)).



The United States has denied visas to a former European Union commissioner and others over social media regulations, illustrating the growing tensions surrounding digital governance ([BBC](#)). Christmas festivities are gradually returning to Bethlehem in the West Bank, offering a hopeful sign of peace and tradition amid regional unrest ([France24](#)).

In Ukraine, President Zelensky unveiled a revised 20-point plan from the United States aimed at ending the ongoing war with Russia, signaling continued international engagement in the conflict ([France24](#)). Meanwhile, Cameroon is preparing for the Africa Cup of Nations following its exit from the football World Cup and coaching changes, reflecting the intersection of sports and national morale ([France24](#)).

French Christmas traditions continue to thrive, featuring delicacies such as foie gras, oysters, and the bûche de Noël, alongside the warming vin chaud, illustrating the season's cultural richness ([France24](#)). Ivory Coast faces a tense parliamentary election with debates over boycotts, highlighting the challenges of democratic processes in some African nations ([France24](#)).

In Moscow, the killing of a Tajik boy has sparked debate about the motive, reflecting ongoing ethnic and social tensions within Russia ([The Diplomat](#)). South Korea's labor model is attracting attention for its strategic implications in the region, signaling shifts in economic and political dynamics ([The Diplomat](#)). China's quiet but significant stake in post-Assad Syria suggests a growing influence in Middle Eastern geopolitics ([The Diplomat](#)). The Indian Navy is enhancing its combat aviation capabilities, marking an important development in regional security ([The Diplomat](#)). Lastly, Australia is debating the need for additional hate speech laws amid rising social tensions ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientific advances continue to offer hope in global health challenges. Researchers have developed a novel method to prevent gum disease that preserves beneficial bacteria, representing progress in oral health care ([Science Daily](#)). Investigations into long COVID have identified viral suspects potentially responsible for prolonged symptoms, aiding in the understanding of this complex condition ([Science Daily](#)).

Following the reopening of schools after COVID-19 closures, children's anxiety and depression rates have dropped rapidly, highlighting the importance of social environments for mental health ([Science Daily](#)). Artificial intelligence has identified a surprising vulnerability in monkeypox, which could lead to improved vaccines and better disease



control ([Science Daily](#)). Additionally, supplements boosting NAD+ show early promise in alleviating fatigue and brain fog associated with long COVID, offering potential therapeutic avenues ([Science Daily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Several minor earthquakes have been recorded recently, including a magnitude 1.8 event north of Chickaloon, Alaska, and smaller tremors in California and New Mexico, reminding us of the earth's dynamic nature ([USGS](#))([USGS](#))([USGS](#))([USGS](#)).

NASA continues to advance space exploration with preparations for the Artemis II mission, including crew rehearsals and team demonstrations ahead of launch, signaling renewed human endeavors beyond Earth ([NASA](#))([NASA](#)). The retirement of astronaut Nick Hague marks the end of a distinguished career contributing to space science ([NASA](#)). Additionally, NASA's OPERA program highlights the use of satellite data to address societal needs, demonstrating the practical benefits of space technology ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David archaeological site continues to reveal new antiquities that shed light on the ancient history of Jerusalem and its surroundings, enriching our understanding of biblical times and heritage ([City of David](#)).

Reflection

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and around the world, we are reminded of the fragile nature of peace and the persistent challenges faced by nations and peoples. The ongoing conflicts, political intrigues, and humanitarian concerns call us to pray for wisdom and justice for leaders and protection for the innocent. At the same time, scientific progress and cultural traditions offer hope and encouragement amid uncertainty.

Let us seek the Lord's guidance to be instruments of peace and compassion, trusting in His sovereign plan even when the path seems unclear. May the light of Christ shine in the darkness, bringing healing and reconciliation to broken places.

- Pray for peace and protection for Jerusalem and all affected by conflict in the Middle East.
- Ask God to grant political and military leaders wisdom and integrity as they navigate complex challenges.



- Thank God for advances in health and science that bring hope to those suffering from disease and hardship.