



Global Watch Daily – January 3, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has advised its citizens to avoid travel to Venezuela following recent U.S. military strikes, underscoring rising regional tensions ([Times of Israel](#)). These U.S. strikes have elicited strong international responses, with Russia and Iran condemning the actions, while the EU and UK urge adherence to international law ([Times of Israel](#)). In Iran, Supreme Leader Khamenei recognized the legitimacy of protesters' demands but stressed that rioters must be restrained, reflecting ongoing domestic unrest ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)). Israel has also launched strikes against Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, highlighting persistent security challenges ([JNS](#)). The IDF neutralized a terrorist who breached the Gaza truce, emphasizing the fragile nature of ceasefire agreements ([JNS](#)). Further regional instability is evident with an evacuation order issued for Tehran amid potential strikes and a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow that forced airport closure ([Jerusalem Post](#); [Jerusalem Post](#)). Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is urging Yemeni factions to engage in dialogue in Riyadh, signaling efforts toward regional reconciliation ([BBC](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The United States has escalated its military involvement by striking Venezuela and capturing President Maduro, a development with far-reaching geopolitical consequences ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)). In the Middle East, Jordan has conducted airstrikes in Syria targeting drug smuggling routes, reflecting ongoing security concerns ([Long War Journal](#)). The UAE is preparing to withdraw forces from Yemen following Saudi demands and recent strikes, indicating shifting alliances and strategies ([Long War Journal](#)). Israeli military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon continue, with recent actions in late December underscoring the ongoing conflict ([Long War Journal](#)). Additionally, Israel is rotating military units in Gaza as a new phase of the ceasefire deal approaches, highlighting the delicate balance of security efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). On the global stage, former President Trump has issued warnings regarding Iran's ongoing protests, emphasizing the potential for U.S. intervention should violence escalate ([FDD](#)).



Global Macro & Geopolitics

The capture of Venezuelan President Maduro by U.S. forces has dominated global headlines, with analyses exploring the risks and uncertainties following this bold move ([BBC](#); [BBC](#)). In Israel, the BBC has reached an agreement with a family for filming in their home following the October 7 events, addressing concerns over consent and media ethics ([BBC](#)). Switzerland has opened a criminal case related to a deadly fire at a ski resort bar, reflecting ongoing legal and social accountability ([BBC](#)). On a lighter note, the passing of Craig, the beer-ambassador elephant, marks the end of an era in animal diplomacy ([BBC](#)). President Trump has publicly indicted Maduro for narcoterrorism, intensifying political rhetoric surrounding Venezuela ([France24](#)). Meanwhile, the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 knockout stage has commenced with Senegal and Sudan competing in Tangier, highlighting ongoing cultural and sporting events amid global tensions ([France24](#)). The Diplomat provides insights into China's strategic ambitions in Taiwan and the Philippines, as well as Ukraine's role as a partner in Taiwan's drone industry, illustrating shifting power dynamics in Asia ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific advances have deepened understanding of health challenges. Stanford researchers have identified mechanisms explaining why mRNA COVID vaccines can trigger heart inflammation, contributing to vaccine safety knowledge ([ScienceDaily](#)). New preventative methods for gum disease have been developed that preserve beneficial bacteria, signaling progress in oral health ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have also pinpointed viral agents potentially responsible for long COVID symptoms, offering hope for targeted treatments ([ScienceDaily](#)). Notably, children's anxiety and depression rates declined rapidly after schools reopened post-pandemic, emphasizing the importance of social environments for mental health ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, AI technology has identified a vulnerability in the monkeypox virus that could inform future vaccine development ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity has been recorded across the United States, including minor earthquakes near Cobb and Winchester, California, as well as in Alaska and New Mexico, reminding us of the earth's dynamic nature ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)). In space, NASA's Hubble telescope has captured images of galactic gas escaping a galaxy, offering insights into cosmic



phenomena ([NASA](#)). The upcoming 2026 American Astronomical Society (AAS) Town Hall and Hyperwall events promise to showcase cutting-edge research and discoveries ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)). Additionally, NASA's Curiosity rover has sent a holiday postcard from Mars, reminding us of humanity's expanding reach into the cosmos ([NASA](#)). Research into microbiology continues to advance, deepening our understanding of life's building blocks ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David has announced new findings in antiquities, contributing valuable insights into the rich historical and biblical heritage of Jerusalem ([City of David](#)).

Reflection

In a world marked by conflict, political upheaval, and scientific progress, believers are called to remain steadfast in prayer and discernment. The unfolding events in Israel, the Middle East, and beyond remind us of the prophetic significance of these times. As we witness both turmoil and hope, may we anchor our hope in God's sovereignty and seek to be agents of peace and truth in a troubled world.