



Global Watch Daily – January 19, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has called for the closure of the US-led Gaza coordination center and proposed resettling the Gaza Strip. He advocates reversing the 2005 disengagement plan and imposing military rule over the Strip's 2.3 million residents ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Houston linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair was fined again for wearing "Stop the genocide" eye black before games, highlighting ongoing tensions and awareness efforts related to the conflict ([JNS](#)).

The Israeli government has submitted its 2026 budget to the Knesset after delays caused by coalition infighting. Ultra-Orthodox parties threaten to withhold votes until military exemptions are granted ([Times of Israel](#)). Additionally, the IDF issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, signaling escalating regional tensions ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Clashes have erupted following a ceasefire agreement between Syria and Kurdish-led forces, which aims to bring an autonomous region in the northeast under state control ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, Yemen faces its worst food crisis since 2022 due to aid cuts, ongoing conflict, and economic collapse, pushing millions toward severe hunger ([Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Kataib Hezbollah, an Iraqi Shiite militia, has threatened to attack US bases in the Middle East if the US strikes Iran, amid rising tensions following Tehran's crackdown on protests ([Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, a US airstrike killed Al Qaeda leader Bilal Hasan al Jasim in Syria, linked to a deadly December 2025 attack on US personnel ([Long War Journal](#)).

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) announced its 2026 National Security Fellows Program participants, welcoming 34 mid-career professionals from diverse backgrounds ([FDD](#)). However, FDD analysts caution that Washington's human rights sanctions against Tehran will not halt regime brutality, underscoring the complexity of US-



Iran relations ([FDD](#)).

Chatham House Director Bronwen Maddox warned that current superpower competition marks the end of the Western alliance, describing US policy under President Trump as a revolutionary shift rejecting foundational principles and international law ([Chatham House](#)). Analyses also highlight how US actions regarding Greenland, Venezuela, and Iran are reshaping the new world order, with European countries preparing retaliatory measures ([Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Severe floods in Mozambique have prompted a South African team to assist in the search for a politician swept away by floodwaters, leading Mozambique's president to cancel a trip to Davos ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, US President Trump linked the Greenland dispute to his failure to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, stating he no longer feels obliged to prioritize peace ([BBC News](#)).

India continues to grapple with widespread "witch-hunting," predominantly targeting isolated village women, despite laws enacted to curb the practice ([France24](#)). The closure of Jammu College, following pressure from Hindutva groups over Muslim admissions, reflects ongoing challenges to academic freedom in India ([The Diplomat](#)).

The European Union is preparing its "Anti-Coercion Instrument" in response to US threats to impose tariffs over the Greenland dispute, potentially targeting \$93 billion in US exports ([France24](#)). In Vietnam, the new Communist Party leadership faces expectations to translate resolutions into tangible progress amid regional and global challenges ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have discovered that viruses sent to the International Space Station evolved differently in microgravity, altering infection dynamics and bacterial defenses. This finding could improve phage therapies against drug-resistant infections ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, a vitamin A byproduct has been found to suppress immune responses, allowing tumors to evade attack, but new drugs targeting this pathway show promise in slowing cancer growth ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A novel test developed by University of Basel scientists reveals which antibiotics truly kill bacteria, improving treatment precision for infections like tuberculosis ([ScienceDaily](#)). In a



real-world experiment, flu patients spending days indoors with healthy volunteers did not transmit the virus, highlighting the importance of ventilation and air movement in infection control ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Long COVID, affecting an estimated 65 million people worldwide, is linked to lingering virus, inflammation, micro-clots, and disrupted metabolism. Emerging experimental treatments show early promise despite limited definitive trials ([ScienceDaily](#)). Scientists also discovered “migrions,” viral structures that enable collective delivery of viral material between cells, enhancing infection severity and challenging classic infection models ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 3.6 earthquake near Karluk, Alaska, and smaller quakes near The Geysers, California, and Stanton, Texas, as reported by the USGS ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)). Lake-effect snow and whiteout conditions are affecting the Great Lakes region, accompanied by below-average temperatures in the eastern United States ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations in Kibbutz HaMa’apil uncovered ancient remains dating back to 1966, shedding light on the area’s historical significance ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Similarly, salvage excavations at Mishor Ha-Ruhot revealed fortifications damaged during development, contributing to the understanding of regional history ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

The extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat ‘Amra in the Be’er Sheva Valley revealed architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, offering valuable insights into settlement patterns and daily life over centuries ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

These archaeological efforts enrich our understanding of the region’s multifaceted history, illuminating the cultural and historical layers that shape the Middle East today ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Reflection



We should interpret these developments soberly, resisting both panic and apathy while attending to what is true. Our aim is prayerful discernment—grounding convictions in Scripture and keeping watch with steadiness and hope.