



Global Watch Daily – January 23, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Tensions remain elevated as the Iranian Foreign Minister insulted Ukrainian President Zelensky, labeling him a “confused clown” following Zelensky’s condemnation of Iran’s crackdown on protests. This exchange highlights the regime’s brutal grip on power through violence ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)). Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces have reportedly issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of potential strikes, underscoring growing regional security concerns ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Lebanon faces severe economic turmoil as its Prime Minister disclosed that the International Monetary Fund is demanding changes to a critical rescue bill designed to end the country’s worst financial crisis in history ([Times of Israel](#)).

The humanitarian situation across the region remains dire. Reports from Yemen reveal secret prisons operated by the UAE where detainees suffer abuse, highlighting ongoing human rights violations ([BBC News](#)). These developments underscore the complex interplay of geopolitical, security, and humanitarian challenges confronting Israel and its neighbors.

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The US-brokered Gaza ceasefire plan has progressed into its second phase, with a newly formed National Committee and Board of Peace taking central roles. However, Palestinian terrorists have already violated the first phase eleven times between January 9 and 22, complicating efforts toward peace ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)). In addition, the US Treasury has sanctioned seven entities linked to Hamas’s covert support network in an effort to disrupt their funding channels ([Long War Journal](#)).

In Syria, the presence of Al Qaeda within the new government raises serious concerns about extremist influence in regional governance ([FDD](#)). Meanwhile, Bronwen Maddox, Director of Chatham House, warns that current geopolitical shifts—including US President Trump’s revolutionary policies—signal the end of the traditional Western alliance and pose



threats to global peace ([Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

US President Trump's claim that NATO troops avoided frontline combat in Afghanistan has sparked outrage in the United Kingdom, reflecting ongoing tensions over the legacy of the conflict that claimed 457 UK military lives ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, peace talks involving Ukraine, Russia, and the US face low expectations despite Trump's push for a deal, as major issues remain unresolved ([BBC News](#)).

Concerns about press freedom are growing after the FBI raided the home of a Washington Post reporter in connection with a classified materials investigation, raising fears of a chilling effect on journalism ([France24](#)). Environmental and health crises loom as Delhi remains one of the world's most polluted cities, with worsening air quality largely ignored by authorities ([France24](#)). Additionally, intellectual property enforcement in Asia and Afghanistan's secret gold rush pose significant economic and environmental challenges, respectively ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

New research reveals that nasal cells provide a critical early defense against the common cold by rapidly blocking rhinovirus infection, explaining why some individuals experience milder symptoms ([ScienceDaily](#)). Scientists have also developed fully synthetic bacteriophages to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, offering new hope against superbugs ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Micro-doses of THC show promise in mitigating long-term side effects of HIV treatment by reducing inflammation and protecting the liver without causing intoxication ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, chronic wounds resist healing due to bacterial toxins that overwhelm skin cells, but antioxidants may help restore the healing process ([ScienceDaily](#)). A global DNA study of diabetic foot infections has uncovered diverse antibiotic-resistant *E. coli* strains, shedding light on the severity of these infections ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Viruses sent to the International Space Station evolved differently in microgravity, altering their infection mechanisms and bacterial defenses; these findings may inform future developments in phage therapy ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.4 earthquake near Port Graham, Alaska, and a magnitude 1.5 quake southeast of Egegik, Alaska, both recorded by the US Geological Survey ([USGS](#)). Additionally, a minor 1.0 magnitude quake struck near Middletown, California ([USGS](#)).

NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has resumed science observations after a brief safe mode episode, continuing its mission to discover exoplanets ([NASA](#)). Meanwhile, a significant winter storm blankets Michigan and the Great Lakes region with snow and dangerously cold temperatures, as reported by NASA and the National Weather Service ([NASA](#); [weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations continue to illuminate the region's rich history. The 1954 El-Kabri excavation, directed by E. Anati of the Israel Antiquities Authority, revealed significant findings southeast of Kibbutz Kabri. Similarly, the "Shikun Dalet" site at Bet She'an was documented in 1955, contributing to the understanding of ancient settlement patterns ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

The extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra, spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, provide valuable insights into the region's architectural and cultural evolution from the third century BCE to the tenth century CE ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, the study of 152 subterranean complexes at Maresha highlights religious diversity and daily life during the Hellenistic era ([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.