



Global Watch Daily – January 24, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Israel Defense Forces reported a strike targeting two Gazans who crossed the Yellow Line and planted bombs near troops, with Palestinian media identifying the fatalities as young brothers collecting firewood ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, the family of the last hostage urged American officials to pressure Hamas rather than Israel, highlighting the ongoing human toll of the conflict ([JNS](#)). Heightened tensions are evident as the IDF issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of strikes, underscoring the regional volatility ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In Iran, eyewitness accounts describe brutal protest crackdowns with security forces opening fire on civilians, while the Iranian Revolutionary Guards chief warned Israel and the US to avoid miscalculations, signaling a precarious standoff as US naval forces approach the region ([BBC News](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The IDF revealed details about Hezbollah's local liaison operatives, who cultivate relationships with Lebanese civilians as part of the group's regeneration efforts, following the recent assassination of a liaison officer ([Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire plan advances into its second phase despite Palestinian terrorists violating the first phase 11 times, reflecting ongoing instability ([Long War Journal](#)).

Political shifts are evident as President Trump withdraws Canada's invitation to join the Board of Peace, while Bronwen Maddox of Chatham House warns that the Western alliance may be ending amid rising superpower competition and a US foreign policy revolution that challenges international law and global norms ([FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Ukraine condemned brutal Russian strikes amid ongoing peace talks in Abu Dhabi, where discussions continue despite casualties and injuries, underscoring the fragility of the



ceasefire efforts ([BBC News](#)). In China, President Xi's administration is accused of purging rivals through investigations, reflecting internal political consolidation ([BBC News](#)).

Turkey's pro-Kurdish DEM party warned of a humanitarian tragedy due to the siege on Syria's Kobane, as Kurdish forces withdraw under Syrian military pressure ([France24](#)). Meanwhile, Europe grapples with its digital reliance on US Big Tech amid souring transatlantic relations, prompting lawmakers to seek homegrown alternatives ([France24](#)). China's strategic drone supply to both Russia and Ukraine reveals a new dimension of civilian technology's role in modern warfare ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research in Guatemala's Western Highlands found that bottled water from refillable jugs, often trusted as safe, was frequently contaminated with harmful bacteria, whereas protected municipal wells were cleaner ([ScienceDaily](#)). Scientists also discovered that nasal cells act as a crucial first line of defense against the common cold by mounting a fast antiviral response, explaining why some people experience milder symptoms ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovative synthetic bacteriophage engineering offers new hope against antibiotic-resistant superbugs like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, utilizing sequence data rather than isolates ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, micro-doses of THC show promise in mitigating long-term side effects of HIV treatment by reducing inflammation and protecting the liver without intoxication ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Researchers uncovered why some chronic wounds resist healing: a bacterium releases damaging molecules that overwhelm skin cells, but antioxidants can neutralize these effects and restart tissue repair ([ScienceDaily](#)). A global DNA study revealed diverse *E. coli* strains in diabetic foot infections, many of which harbor antibiotic resistance genes, explaining rapid worsening of infections and treatment challenges ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.3 earthquake near Indio, California, and a magnitude 1.0 quake near Borrego Springs, California, both recorded by USGS ([USGS](#)). Additionally, a magnitude 1.9 earthquake occurred near Pāhala, Hawaii ([USGS](#)). NASA announced upcoming briefings for the SpaceX Crew-12 mission to the International Space Station, highlighting ongoing space exploration efforts ([NASA](#)). A significant winter storm is



forecast to bring heavy snow, ice, and dangerously cold temperatures across the eastern United States ([weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations at El Kabri in 1954, directed by E. Anati, revealed significant archaeological findings southeast of Kibbutz Kabri, enriching understanding of the region's ancient history ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org)). Similarly, research published in 1955 on Bet She'an's "Shikun Dalet" area provides valuable insights into the area's past ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org)).

The extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra, covering periods from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic eras, provide crucial data on settlement patterns, material culture, and daily life in the Be'er Sheva Valley ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org)). Additionally, the study of 152 subterranean complexes at ancient Maresha offers a comprehensive archaeological overview of the Hellenistic city's underground structures and their cultural significance ([Israel Antiquities Authority](https://www.israelantiquitiesauthority.org)).

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.