



Global Watch Daily – February 9, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

An Israeli court has ordered Police Minister Ben Gvir to allow the promotion of officer Rinat Saban, who testified against former Prime Minister Netanyahu, underscoring tensions between the government and the judiciary ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces detained over twenty terrorists in Judea and Samaria, including raids on offices involved in forging passports, highlighting ongoing security operations in the region ([JNS](#)). These events illustrate the complex interplay of legal, political, and security challenges currently facing Israel ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

In Lebanon, a recent building collapse claimed fifteen lives, marking the fifth such disaster this winter and raising concerns about neglect and deteriorating infrastructure ([BBC News](#)). The IDF has also intensified intelligence efforts by bringing in a top terror figure from Lebanon, signaling increased vigilance along Israel's northern border ([Times of Israel](#)). These incidents emphasize the fragile security and humanitarian conditions in Israel's neighboring regions ([BBC News](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Hezbollah's deputy leader, Naim Qassem, delivered a defiant speech commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the Mahdi Schools, emphasizing Iran's promised victory over the United States and Israel, and affirming Hezbollah's refusal to disarm ([Long War Journal](#)). At the same time, Syrian government forces deployed in northeastern Syria following an agreement with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, aiming to restore central authority and reduce clashes amid ongoing U.S. operations against Islamic State targets in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). These developments reflect the volatile and multi-layered security dynamics in the Levant ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Iran's missile arsenal and nuclear ambitions remain central concerns, with analyses highlighting the regime's strategic objectives and the potential for conflict involving the United States ([FDD](#)). Discussions in Arab media and expert circles suggest that American



interests could drive a war with Iran, underscoring the high stakes of regional power struggles ([FDD](#)). Meanwhile, Chatham House experts have provided testimony on Venezuela's political repression and U.S. policy, highlighting broader geopolitical contests and the erosion of Western alliances ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit to Sydney sparked protests that were met with police pepper spray, reflecting global tensions surrounding Israel's international image ([BBC News](#)). In the United States, news anchor Savannah Guthrie made a heartfelt plea for the safe return of her missing mother, highlighting personal stories amid broader geopolitical narratives ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, management expert Andrew Palmer discussed the unique challenges of leadership, emphasizing that success in previous roles does not guarantee managerial effectiveness ([France24](#)). The recent Super Bowl entertainment and advertisements revealed cultural insights into American hopes and anxieties, underscoring the event's role as a national zeitgeist ([France24](#)).

Southeast Asia faces reputational challenges due to a surge in cybercrime, as highlighted by The Diplomat, while India and the United States move closer to a trade agreement amid concerns about long-term security implications under the Trump administration ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)). These developments illustrate the complex interplay of economic, security, and image factors shaping global geopolitics ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent studies reveal that both H1N1 and COVID-19 spread rapidly across U.S. cities within weeks, driven largely by major travel hubs and air travel, complicating early detection and forecasting efforts ([ScienceDaily](#)). Australian scientists have identified a unique sugar on drug-resistant bacteria, enabling antibody-based therapies that could overcome antibiotic resistance ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A new nasal vaccine demonstrated strong protection against H5N1 bird flu in animal models, potentially preventing infection at the earliest stages and outperforming traditional flu shots ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, researchers in Bangladesh discovered a bat-borne virus infecting humans, raising concerns about undetected zoonotic threats alongside the Nipah virus ([ScienceDaily](#)). These findings underscore the ongoing challenges in pandemic preparedness and emerging infectious diseases ([ScienceDaily](#)).



[ScienceDaily](#)).

A global study found that brain fog and mental health symptoms from long COVID are reported far more frequently in the United States than in countries like India and Nigeria, likely due to cultural stigma and differences in healthcare access ([ScienceDaily](#)). In Guatemala, trusted bottled water from refillable jugs was often contaminated, while municipal wells proved safer, highlighting public health risks in water sources ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity was recorded in Oklahoma, California near Maricopa, and The Geysers, with magnitudes ranging from 0.7 to 2.4, indicating ongoing minor earthquake events in the United States ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)). NASA highlighted a visually striking snow-rimmed canyon on the Colorado Plateau, illustrating natural beauty and seasonal changes ([NASA](#)).

NASA is preparing live coverage for the upcoming SpaceX Crew-12 launch and docking to the International Space Station, marking continued progress in space exploration ([NASA](#)). Weather.gov reports critical fire weather conditions in the High Plains and heavy rain with high winds in Hawaii, signaling diverse and impactful weather events across the United States ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations on Ha-Te'uda Ha-Aduma Street in Yafo uncovered fourteen military artifacts, including cannonballs and bullets, linked to historical sieges such as those by Muhammad Beq Abu-Dahab in 1775–1776 and Napoleon in 1799 ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, about 50 glass items dating from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries were found, reflecting local daily life, including imported and locally made bottles and bracelet fragments spanning the Mamluk to Ottoman periods ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Large-scale salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley revealed architectural remains and artifacts from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, with some finds dating back to the Chalcolithic and Iron Age II, offering valuable insights into settlement patterns and material culture over centuries ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). These discoveries enrich our understanding of historical continuity and daily life in the region across multiple eras ([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.