



## Global Watch Daily – February 21, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

A cliff face collapsed at a Herzliya beach, though fortunately, no injuries were reported. The Nature and Parks Authority continues to warn of similar dangers along the coast and regularly closes off risky areas to the public ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, a new Sunni coalition centered around Turkey is emerging as a strategic threat to Israel, signaling shifts in regional power dynamics amid Iran's gradual weakening ([JNS](#)). Israeli strikes have resulted in at least 10 deaths in Lebanon, marking some of the deadliest incidents since the ceasefire with Hezbollah ([BBC News](#)). The IDF has issued evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, underscoring ongoing tensions in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In Syria, thousands have fled a detention camp that held ISIS families, leaving few people behind as control shifts from US-backed Kurdish forces to the government. Estimates suggest 15,000-20,000 departures amid the chaotic takeover ([Times of Israel](#)). This exodus reflects broader instability in the region and ongoing challenges in managing displaced populations ([BBC News](#)).

### **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

The Israel Defense Forces have conducted strikes against Hamas positions in Lebanon, particularly targeting the Ain al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon, which was reportedly used for preparing terrorist activities. This action comes amid reports of 14 ceasefire violations by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza from February 5 to 20 ([Long War Journal](#)). At the recent US-backed Board of Peace meeting in Washington, DC, five countries pledged troops to an International Stabilization Force for Gaza, while representatives from 40 nations committed approximately \$7 billion in funding to support the second phase of the ceasefire plan initiated in October 2025 ([Long War Journal](#)).

In broader geopolitical developments, the US Supreme Court struck down some of former President Trump's emergency tariffs, a decision that injects new uncertainty into global trade but does not affect his broader ability to reorient trade policies ([FDD](#); [BBC News](#)).



Meanwhile, Chatham House has partnered with the African Mining Indaba 2026 to address critical minerals supply chains and their geopolitical implications, highlighting the growing political influence in mineral resource management ([Chatham House](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

The global trade landscape faces new challenges as the US Supreme Court struck down some of Trump's sweeping tariffs, injecting uncertainty into international commerce ([BBC News](#)). In the realm of diplomacy and innovation, French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized the evolving nature of India's role in global innovation, asking, "Who will innovate with India?" and highlighting the deepening France-India partnership ([The Diplomat](#)).

In cultural news, the six-member girl group Katseye announced a temporary hiatus to focus on health, a decision reached through open and thoughtful conversations among members ([BBC News](#)). Additionally, France secured gold in the Olympic ski mountaineering mixed relay, showcasing its athletic excellence in winter sports ([France24](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Recent research reveals that the common pneumonia bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae* may contribute to Alzheimer's disease by invading the retina and brain, triggering inflammation and amyloid-beta buildup, especially in individuals with the APOE4 gene, linking infection to cognitive decline ([ScienceDaily](#)). In parallel, a reengineered HPV vaccine has demonstrated enhanced cancer-fighting capabilities by training T cells to better target HPV-driven tumors, significantly improving survival in animal models ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists at UC San Diego have developed a breakthrough CRISPR system that can reverse antibiotic resistance by spreading a genetic fix through bacterial populations, even within protective biofilms, offering hope against the looming superbug crisis ([ScienceDaily](#)). Moreover, a large study found no link between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and autism or developmental delays in toddlers, providing reassurance on vaccine safety ([ScienceDaily](#)).

## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**



Seismic activity included a magnitude 2.7 earthquake 50 km east of Yakutat, Alaska, and a magnitude 4.1 quake near Šamorín, Slovakia, reflecting ongoing tectonic movements ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)). NASA is supporting conservation efforts by helping reintroduce giant tortoises to Floreana Island in the Galápagos after more than 150 years, guided by data identifying suitable release areas ([NASA](#)).

The Artemis II crew, including NASA astronaut Christina Koch and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, trained on a T-38 jet with a waning crescent Moon visible, preparing for the first crewed Artemis mission ([NASA](#)). Weather conditions include critical fire weather in the Southern High Plains and heavy snow in the Great Lakes and Northeast U.S., highlighting diverse and impactful meteorological phenomena ([weather.gov](#)).

### **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Excavations at Tel Roeh (Tel El-Ruiyan) on the western slope of the Beit She'an Valley were conducted in 1956 prior to the construction of the water canal, revealing archaeological layers under the direction of N. Zori (Israel Antiquities Authority). Similarly, multiple excavations at Tel 'Erani between 1951 and 1961 uncovered Iron Age structures, including casemate walls, towers, and glacis walls, providing insights into ancient settlement patterns ([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, with additional finds from the Chalcolithic, Iron Age II, and Ottoman periods, marking it as one of the largest multiperiod sites in the region ([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.