



Global Watch Daily – February 22, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The IDF has intensified strikes against Hezbollah amid rising concerns of an Iran-directed assault on Israel. This escalation reflects growing tensions in the region and fears of proxy involvement, following substantial Iranian financial and military support ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Meanwhile, Jewish youth from around the world gathered in Times Square to hear former hostage Segev Kalfon lead the iconic ‘Shema Yisrael’ call, symbolizing resilience and faith amid ongoing conflict ([JNS](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

In a related development, the IDF issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, underscoring the heightened military alert and the potential for further escalation in the region ([Jerusalem Post](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israel continues to confront security challenges, striking Hamas positions in Lebanon while reporting multiple ceasefire violations in Gaza. These incidents highlight ongoing instability despite diplomatic efforts, including the US-backed Board of Peace meeting that pledged stabilization forces and significant funding for Gaza ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Analysts warn that the Iranian regime remains resilient despite recent uprisings and crackdowns, complicating regional security dynamics and influencing Israel’s strategic calculations ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Meanwhile, global geopolitical discussions proceed with Chatham House partnering in African mining forums and hosting events on Japan’s engagement with the Global South. These activities reflect shifting alliances and economic interests that indirectly affect regional security ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).



Global Macro & Geopolitics

Recent large-scale student protests in Iran represent the first significant anti-government demonstrations since a deadly crackdown, signaling ongoing unrest within the country ([BBC News](#); [FDD](#)).

Pakistan has launched border strikes against militant hideouts in Afghanistan, resulting in civilian casualties and escalating tensions between the two nations ([France24](#); [BBC News](#)).

In cultural news, the relics of Saint Francis of Assisi are on public display in Italy for the first time in 800 years, attracting significant attention and pilgrimage. Meanwhile, diplomatic focus is shifting toward innovation partnerships, notably between France and India, amid rising global competition ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

New research has linked the common pneumonia bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae* to Alzheimer's disease, revealing its role in brain inflammation and amyloid-beta buildup, particularly in genetically susceptible individuals ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Innovations in cancer vaccines show promise, as a reengineered HPV vaccine enhances T-cell responses against tumors. Additionally, a breakthrough CRISPR system offers hope of reversing antibiotic resistance by spreading genetic fixes through bacterial populations ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Large-scale studies provide reassurance on the safety of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy, finding no links to autism or developmental delays. Meanwhile, epigenetic mapping reveals how life experiences shape immune responses, informing future health strategies ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes two minor earthquakes near Pāhala, Hawaii, with magnitudes of 1.9 at depths around 32 km, and a smaller 1.0 magnitude quake near The Geysers, California, indicating ongoing tectonic movements in these regions ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA is supporting ecological restoration by reintroducing giant tortoises to Floreana Island in the Galápagos, guided by satellite data to identify suitable habitats. Meanwhile,



Artemis II astronauts continue training for upcoming lunar missions ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

Weather patterns show inclement conditions in the Pacific Northwest, severe thunderstorms in the Southeast, and an impending winter storm, highlighting the need for preparedness across diverse US regions ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations continue to reveal the rich history of the region. Recent digs at Tel Roeh have uncovered ancient water canal sites, while excavations at Tel 'Erani have exposed multi-layered Iron Age structures, including casemate walls and towers ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further south, extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra have documented architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, providing valuable insights into rural life and cultural transitions in the Be'er Sheva Valley ([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.