



Global Watch Daily – March 17, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

A recent UN report accuses Israel of committing a war crime with its strike on Iran's Evin Prison, underscoring the complexities involved in military actions conducted in civilian areas. Meanwhile, the IDF continues targeted operations against terrorists in Gaza to protect its troops ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

The conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran has escalated with widespread strikes and growing concerns over the destruction of cultural heritage, as Iran reports damage to numerous heritage sites amid ongoing hostilities ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

At the same time, vulnerable Israeli workers face increased risks amid missile attacks, highlighting the human cost of the conflict. Intelligence reports suggest that Iran may be preparing for a multi-front war against Israel ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

US and Israeli strikes have intensified against Iran, targeting military infrastructure and command centers. In response, Iran has launched missile and drone attacks on Israel and regional oil fields, further escalating tensions in the Middle East ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

President Trump's efforts to form a coalition to secure the Strait of Hormuz face resistance from allies, complicating efforts to maintain strategic control of this vital maritime passage. Meanwhile, concerns about foreign influence in American universities continue to rise ([FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Regional security dialogues continue as the foreign ministers of Nigeria and Ghana discuss strategies against Boko Haram and US operations, emphasizing local solutions supported by international partners. Meanwhile, Israel maintains a high tempo of strikes against Iran's military assets ([Chatham House](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



Global Macro & Geopolitics

A devastating air strike by Pakistan killed at least 100 people at a Kabul drug rehabilitation center, while suspected suicide attacks in northeast Nigeria claimed at least 23 lives, highlighting ongoing instability in these regions ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

International responses to the Strait of Hormuz crisis reveal fractures among US allies, with some refusing to assist in securing this vital waterway. Meanwhile, political maneuvering continues in France ahead of local election runoffs, reflecting broader geopolitical tensions ([France24](#); [France24](#)).

In Southeast Asia, debates have arisen over social media bans for youth, while the UK's visa restrictions on Myanmar students have drawn criticism for undermining democratic values. These developments illustrate the complex interplay of technology, education, and human rights in the region ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Emerging vaccine technologies such as DNA origami promise improved immune responses and easier production compared to mRNA vaccines, potentially revolutionizing disease prevention for illnesses including COVID-19, HIV, and Ebola ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Researchers at MIT have identified the gut protein intelectin-2 as a key defender against harmful bacteria by reinforcing mucus barriers and trapping pathogens. This discovery offers new insights into gut immunity and antibiotic resistance ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A clinical trial revealed that high doses of vitamin D3 do not reduce COVID-19 severity but may slightly lower the risk of long COVID. Additionally, severe respiratory infections such as COVID-19 and influenza could increase lung cancer risk years later due to chronic inflammation, underscoring the importance of vaccination ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Historical research challenges stereotypes about medieval disease stigma, showing that even those with leprosy were buried in prestigious locations. Meanwhile, a new "super antibiotic" EVG7 shows promise in treating deadly gut infections without harming beneficial microbiomes ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



Recent seismic activity in California includes multiple minor earthquakes near Indio, Lake Pillsbury, and Templeton, with depths ranging from approximately 4 to 7 kilometers. These events are being monitored by the USGS for potential impacts ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Satellite imagery highlights the unique gray landscapes of Ireland’s Burren region, contrasting sharply with its famed greenery. Meanwhile, NASA prepares for upcoming test flights of the X-59 quiet supersonic aircraft, signaling advances in aerospace technology ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

An early heat wave is affecting the western US, raising fire concerns in the Plains region and underscoring the growing challenges posed by extreme weather and disaster preparedness ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists in Upper Egypt have uncovered approximately 3,000 ostraca pottery fragments this season, bringing the total to around 43,000—the largest collection from a single site in Egypt. This discovery sheds new light on the practices of ancient craftspeople ([BiblePlaces](#)).

The Israel Museum plans to open the exhibition “The Girl Who Wrote” once war-related restrictions are lifted, and to offer online activities for children during closures. Reflections on the Purim holiday provide cultural context amid current events ([BiblePlaces](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

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.