



## Global Watch Daily – March 23, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Recent violence in the West Bank has intensified following the death of 18-year-old settler Yehuda Sherman, who was reportedly struck by a Palestinian driver. In response, settlers have set fire to cars and damaged property in Palestinian towns, leading to injuries and arrests by security forces ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Meanwhile, Iran's strategy appears increasingly desperate amid rising tensions with Israel and the United States. CENTCOM chief Admiral Brad Cooper has suggested this may be a signal encouraging the Iranian people to rise. Despite these threats, UK Prime Minister Starmer downplays any direct danger from Iran to Britain and calls for de-escalation ([JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Historical attempts by Israel and the US to neutralize Iran through air strikes have proven ineffective without accompanying ground operations, highlighting the conflict's complexity. Recent diplomatic talks led by President Trump suggest a possible path toward resolution, though tensions remain high ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

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

Israeli military operations have eliminated three Hamas operatives in Lebanon, including a key financial figure, Walid Dib, signaling intensified efforts against militant networks. At the same time, Kuwaiti and UAE authorities report disrupting Hezbollah-linked terror cells within their borders, although Hezbollah denies any presence in the Gulf states ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Shabaab, Al Qaeda's East African branch, has released a video celebrating last year's attack on a Mogadishu prison, underscoring ongoing regional instability. Meanwhile, the Trump administration's rollback of sanctions on Iran, without safeguards, raises concerns about funding adversaries and complicates the geopolitical landscape ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).



Experts debate whether President Trump will continue efforts to address Iran's threat, while European leaders reflect on Brexit's impact, calling for flexible partnerships to enhance security and economic ties amid global tensions ([FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

Global markets responded positively after President Trump announced productive talks aimed at ending ongoing conflicts, resulting in a drop in oil prices and a rebound in shares. In Kenya, the resurfacing of former foreign minister Raphael Tuju following fears of abduction has drawn international attention to political stability in the region ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

French municipal elections have produced a complex political landscape with all sides claiming victory, while the far-right National Rally failed to secure major cities, offering hope to mainstream parties ahead of the 2027 presidential race. The socialist party's wins in Paris and Marseille indicate shifting alliances that will shape the upcoming election cycle ([France24](#); [France24](#)).

In Southeast Asia, the Bangsamoro region prepares for its first parliamentary elections, a critical test for the peace process and democratic governance. Meanwhile, the Philippines faces an oil supply crisis, prompting approval to shift to dirtier fuels despite environmental concerns, reflecting the complex balance between energy needs and sustainability ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

New research reveals antibiotics accumulating in Brazilian river fish, including banned substances, raising food safety concerns. Scientists have identified a common aquatic plant that can remove these chemicals, though it may alter how fish absorb them, posing unexpected risks ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A shingles vaccine shows promise beyond its original use, reducing heart attack and stroke risk by nearly half in high-risk individuals, rivaling the benefits of quitting smoking. This finding highlights the vaccine's potential role in preventing clot-related complications ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have discovered tiny rocket engines inside malaria parasites powered by a reaction that breaks down hydrogen peroxide, which may aid parasite survival and inspire new drug development. Additionally, DNA origami vaccines are emerging as a next-



generation platform with strong immune responses and easier manufacturing compared to mRNA vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

MIT researchers have identified intelectin-2, a gut protein that strengthens the mucus barrier and traps harmful bacteria, including antibiotic-resistant strains, offering new avenues for infection control. Meanwhile, a major clinical trial found that high-dose vitamin D3 does not reduce COVID-19 severity but may slightly lower the risk of developing long COVID symptoms ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.6 earthquake near Santa Rosa, California, and a magnitude 2.4 quake near Avenal, California, both monitored by the USGS. Additionally, a magnitude 3.0 event occurred near Calumet, Oklahoma, with minor reported effects ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA reports vibrant wildflower blooms along the San Andreas Fault and Carrizo Plain National Monument, signaling seasonal changes. The agency also provides resources on transformational tools and technologies to support ongoing scientific and environmental research ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

Weather forecasts indicate record heat persisting, with potential severe thunderstorms, emphasizing the need for preparedness in affected regions ([weather.gov](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeologists have uncovered a Byzantine church with colorful mosaic floors at Nitzana in the Negev, shedding light on early Christian heritage. Excavations at Hippos revealed a lead sling bullet inscribed with the Greek word for “learn,” reflecting local defenders’ humor and historical context ([BiblePlaces](#)).

In Upper Egypt, around 3,000 ostraca pottery fragments were discovered this season, bringing the total to approximately 43,000. This collection represents the largest known assemblage of inscribed pottery fragments from a single archaeological site in Egypt, offering valuable insights into ancient crafts and daily life ([BiblePlaces](#)).

## **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.