

AMBUSH

A. An AMBUSH Is A Tactic Of War

1. It is the act of lying in wait, for the purpose of attacking by surprise; strategic concealment for a surprise attack; a plot, a concealed station, where troops or enemies lie in wait to attack by surprise
2. An ambush can have global, national and individual applications; it can include:
3. A catastrophic event of global proportions
4. A national security event with a high impact
5. An event which places the individual in danger (loss of life, freedom or livelihood)

B. An AMBUSH Is Set Up While Disciples Walk “On The Way”

1. Civil and religious leaders plotted against Jesus and sought to “trap” Him with His words and His actions; Matthew 12:10, 14; 22:21; 26:14-16; Mark 3:6
2. False allegations/an ambush arose against Paul while he was “on the way”; Acts 25:2-3; 23:21
3. Charges are brought against God’s people; mobs are formed which set the city in an uproar; they agitate and stir up the crowds against God’s people; Acts 17:5, 13; 19:23-29; 34-35
4. They form a conspiracy against God’s people and make oaths to kill them; Acts 23:12-14
5. Ambushes are set up in strategic places:
 - a. On the tops of mountains; Judges 9:25
 - b. In the field; Judges 9:32
 - c. At the gate of the city; Judges 16:2
 - d. In an inner room; Judges 16:9, 12
 - e. In the wilderness; Lamentations 4:18-19

C. “Beasts” Are Involved In An AMBUSH

1. The wicked and the oppressors are like “beasts”, Lam. 4:18-19; who ambush the innocent without cause; Prov. 1:11
2. They plot against God’s people, they trample, they fight, they distort our words, their thoughts are against us, they attack, watch our steps and seek to take our lives; Psalm 56; Ps. 109; Ps. 140
3. Our enemies set an ambush for our lives and launch an attack against us; Ps. 59:3
4. They lurk in hiding places; Psalm 10:8-9; 17:12
5. They are malicious witnesses who gather themselves together; Ps. 35:11-16
6. God will allow “noisome beasts” (descriptive of wicked entities and nations) to pass through the land to bring judgment upon the wicked; Ezekiel 14:15; He can use the “beasts of the field” for His own purposes; Exodus 23:29
7. God wants us to have spiritual vision to see these “beasts” from an elevated spiritual position; Song of Sol. 4:8 (we have to “come up” higher to see them)
8. Beasts mentioned in scripture have symbolic meanings, including that of world rulers and empires; Daniel 7:3-7, 17; Hosea 13:7-8; Revelation 13:1-4:
 - a. A **lion** - is a biblical symbol of rulership and dominance; it is a destroyer which crouches at the door; it is known for its “roaring”, to frighten and terrify; 1 Peter 5:8; Job 38:40
 - b. A **leopard** – is a symbol of cruelty and conquest; it indicates vicious pride in the guise of human courage; it is known for its “camouflage”; Jer. 5:6; it is a type of antichrist; Rev. 13:2
 - c. A **wolf** – is a symbol of savagery and greed; it is a predator and a devourer, possessing devious intelligence; John 10:12; Acts 20:29

d. A **fox** – is a symbol of guile, malice and hypocrisy; Ezek. 13:4; it is a trickster and is seductive; a fox can “spoil the vines”; Song of Sol. 2:15; Luke 13:32

e. A **bear** – is a predatory symbol and a cruel warrior; it represents brutality, a wicked ruler and fierce revenge; 2 Sam. 17:8; 2 Kings 2:23, 24; Proverbs 28:15; antichrist; Rev. 13:2

f. A **dog** – is the symbol of a scavenger and a mutilator; it represents contempt, apostates and unregenerate man; 1 Sam. 17:43; Ps. 22:20; Matthew 15:26

g. A **serpent** – is descriptive of Satan, the spiritual seducer; he beguiled and tricked “the woman”; his goal is to deceive, to cause God’s people to doubt God’s Word and to twist (pervert) the scriptures; Gen. 3:1-13; Rev. 20:2

h. A **dragon** – is descriptive of Satan, the source of outward persecution; he personifies the accuser of the brethren and seeks to devour the manchild; Rev. 12:3-4, 7-10, 13

9. Beasts (governing powers) wage war against the saints; Dan. 7:21-22, 25; Rev. 4:7; 13:1-7

10. Facts concerning the “beasts” described in the book of Revelation:

a. A beast comes up “out of the abyss” (bottomless pit); Rev. 11:7; 17:8

b. A beast (Antichrist) comes up “out of the sea”; Rev. 13:1

c. A beast (False Prophet) comes up “out of the earth (land)”; Rev. 13:11

d. An image is made to the beast; Rev. 13:14

e. The beast has power and receives worship; Rev. 13:4

f. Life is given to the image of the beast; it speaks; Rev. 13:15

g. There is a mark, name and number of the beast; Rev. 13:17-18

h. There is a scarlet colored beast (Babylon the Great); Rev. 17:3-6

D. An AMBUSH Is Utilized In The War Against Truth

1. Jesus said “I am the way, and the TRUTH, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me”; John 14:6. During His trial, Pilate asked Jesus “What is truth (that which agrees with final reality)?” John 18:38

2. When you know the truth, it sets you free; John 8:31-32

3. It sanctifies you; John 17:17-19

4. It purifies you; 1 Peter 1:22

5. It establishes you; Eph. 4:15

6. Regardless Of Any Ambush Set Against Us, We Are To:

a. Speak and declare the truth; Eph. 4:25; Acts 26:25

b. Walk in the truth; 3 John 3, 4

c. Worship in truth; John 4:23, 24

d. Come to a knowledge of the truth; 1 Timothy 2:4

e. Believe and know the truth; 1 Timothy 4:3

f. Handle the truth properly; 2 Timothy 2:15

g. Obey the truth; 1 Peter 1:22

h. Be firmly established in the truth; 2 Peter 1:12

7. God can and does use any situation that comes our way for us to TESTIFY to the Truth of the Gospel; Philippians 1:12-18

