

## 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

