

~AMBUSH (611)

[Hebrew, 'a-rav', lie in wait, Greek, e-ne'dra, ambush]

- A lying in wait in a concealed place to attack by surprise. Three Hebrew words for ambush, 'e'rev, 'o'rev, and ma- 'arav' come from the root 'a-rav', meaning lie in wait.
- And the wild beast comes into the **ambush**, and in its hiding places it dwells. (Job 37:8)
- Their tongue is a slaughtering arrow. Deception is what it has spoken. With his mouth, peace is what a person keeps speaking with his own companion, but within himself he sets his **ambush**. (Jeremiah 9:8)
- He sits in an **ambush** of settlements, from concealed places he will kill someone innocent. His eyes are on the lookout for someone unfortunate. (Psalms 10:8)
- And now rise up by night, you and the people that are with you, and **lie in wait** in the field. (Judges 9:32)
- Similarly, the Greek word for **ambush** e-ne'dra is related to the verb e-ne-dreu'o, meaning lie in wait.
- Asking for themselves as a favor against the man that he would send for him to come to Jerusalem, as they were **laying an ambush** to do away with him along the road. (Acts of Apostles 25:3)
- Above all things, do not let them persuade you, for more than forty men of theirs are **lying in wait** for him, and they have bound themselves with a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have done away with him, and they are now ready, waiting for the promise from you. (Acts of Apostles 23:21)
- Joshua skillfully employed an **ambush** against Ai, posting 5,000 men to the West of the city at night, while deploying the main body of his forces to the North. The following morning he drew the city's defenders away from the city by feigning defeat, thus allowing the **ambush** to rise up and take the city.

- And you must do to Ai and to its king just as you did to Jericho and its king. Only you people may plunder its spoil and its domestic animals for yourselves. Set an **ambush** of yours against the city at its rear. (**Joshua 8:2**)
- Accordingly Joshua and all the people of war rose to go up to Ai, and Joshua proceeded to choose thirty thousand men, valiant mighty ones, and to send them off by night. (**Joshua 8:3**)
- And he went on to command them, saying; See, you are lying in **ambush** against the city to the rear of the city. Do not go very far away from the city, and you must all of you hold yourselves in readiness. (**Joshua 8:4**)
- As for me and all the people who are with me, we shall go close to the city. And it must occur that, in case they should come out to meet us just as at the first, we must then flee before them. (**Joshua 8:5**)
- And they must come out after us until we have drawn them away from the city, for they will say; They are fleeing before us just as at the first. And we must flee before them. (**Joshua 8:6**)
- Then you, you will rise up from the **ambush**, and you must take possession of the city, and Yehowah your God will certainly give it into your hands. (**Joshua 8:7**)
- And it must occur that as soon as you have seized the city, you should set the city on fire. According to Yehowah's word you should do. See, I have commanded you. (**Joshua 8:8**)
- After that Joshua sent them out and they marched to the place of **ambush** and took up quarters between Bethel and Ai to the west of Ai, while Joshua kept lodging on that night in the midst of the people. (**Joshua 8:9**)
- Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and reviewed the people and went up, he and the older men of Israel, before the people to Ai. (**Joshua 8:10**)
- And all the people of war who were with him went up, that they might approach and get in front of the city, and they proceeded to camp to the north of Ai, with the valley between them and Ai. (**Joshua 8:11**)

- In the meantime he took about five thousand men and set them as an **ambush** between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. (Joshua 8:12)
- So the people set the main camp that was to the north of the city and the extreme rear of it that was to the west of the city, and Joshua proceeded to go during that night into the middle of the low plain. (Joshua 8:13)
- And it came about that, as soon as the king of Ai saw it, then the men of the city got in a hurry and rose up early and went out to meet Israel in battle, he and all his people, at the appointed time, before the desert plain. As for him, he did not know that there was an **ambush** against him to the rear of the city. (Joshua 8:14)
- When Joshua and all Israel suffered a blow before them, then they took to flight by the way of the wilderness. (Joshua 8:15)
- At that all the people who were in the city were called out to chase after them, and they went chasing after Joshua and got to be drawn away from the city. (Joshua 8:16)
- And there was not a man remaining in Ai and Bethel that did not go out after Israel, so that they left the city wide open and went chasing after Israel. (Joshua 8:17)
- Yehowah now said to Joshua; Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for into your hand I shall give it. Accordingly Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. (Joshua 8:18)
- And the **ambush** rose up quickly from its place, and they began to run at the instant that he stretched out his hand, and they proceeded to enter the city and capture it. Then they hurried and set the city on fire. (Joshua 8:19)
- And the men of Ai began to turn back and look, and there the smoke of the city ascended to the heavens, and there proved to be no ability in them to flee this way or that. And the people that were fleeing to the wilderness turned upon the pursuers. (Joshua 8:20)
- And Joshua and all Israel saw that the **ambush** had captured the

city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, and so they turned around and went striking the men of Ai down. ([Joshua 8:21](#))

- **Ambushes** were involved in the dispute between the landowners of Shechem and Gideon's son Abimelech.
- So the landowners of Shechem set **ambush** men for him upon the tops of the mountains, and they would rob everyone that would pass by them on the road. In time it was reported to Abimelech. ([Judges 9:25](#))
- So he sent messengers by subterfuge to Abimelech, saying; Look! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers are now come to Shechem, and here they are massing the city against you. ([Judges 9:31](#))
- And now rise up by night, you and the people that are with you, and lie in wait in the field. ([Judges 9:32](#))
- And it must occur in the morning that as soon as the sun shines forth you should get up early, and you must make a dash against the city, and when he and the people that are with him are going out against you, you must also do to him just as your hand finds it possible. ([Judges 9:33](#))
- Accordingly Abimelech and all the people that were with him rose up by night, and they began to lie in wait against Shechem in four bands. ([Judges 9:34](#))
- Later Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood at the entrance of the city gate. Then Abimelech and the people that were with him rose up from the place of **ambush**. ([Judges 9:35](#))
- When Gaal caught sight of the people, he at once said to Zebul, Look! People coming down from the tops of the mountains. But Zebul said to him; The shadows of the mountains are what you are seeing as though they were men. ([Judges 9:36](#))
- Later Gaal spoke once more and said; Look! People coming down out of the center of the land, and one band is coming by the way of the big tree of Meonenim. ([Judges 9:37](#))
- At this Zebul said to him; Where now is that saying of yours that you mouthed; Who is Abimelech that we should serve him? Is

not this the people whom you rejected? Go out now, please, and fight against them. (**Judges 9:38**)

- So Gaal went on out at the head of the landowners of Shechem and took up the fight against Abimelech. (**Judges 9:39**)
- And Abimelech set out after him, and he went fleeing before him, and the slain kept falling in numbers as far as the entrance of the gate. (**Judges 9:40**)
- And Abimelech continued to dwell in Arumah, and Zebul proceeded to drive Gaal and his brothers out from dwelling in Shechem. (**Judges 9:41**)
- And it came about on the next day that the people began to go out into the field. So they told Abimelech. (**Judges 9:42**)
- Hence he took the people and divided them up into three bands and began to lie in wait in the field. Then he looked, and there the people were going out of the city. He now rose up against them and struck them down. (**Judges 9:43**)
- And Abimelech and the bands that were with him made a dash that they might stand at the entrance of the city gate, while two bands made a dash against all who were in the field, and they went striking them down. (**Judges 9:44**)
- And Abimelech fought against the city all that day and got to capture the city, and he killed the people that were in it, after which he pulled the city down and sowed it with salt. (**Judges 9:45**)
- Samson was the object of **ambushes** by the Philistines.
- Once Samson went to Gaza and saw a prostitute woman there and came in to her. (**Judges 16:1**)
- And report was made to the Gazites, saying; Samson has come in here. So they surrounded him and lay in wait for him all night long in the city gate. And they kept quiet the whole night, saying; As soon as the morning gets light, we must also kill him. (**Judges 16:2**)
- However, Samson kept lying till midnight and then rose at

- midnight and grabbed hold of the doors of the city gate and the two side posts and pulled them out along with the bar and put them upon his shoulders and went carrying them up to the top of the mountain that is in front of Hebron. (**Judges 16:3**)
- And it came about after that that he fell in love with a woman in the torrent valley of Sorek, and her name was Delilah. (**Judges 16:4**)
 - And the axis lords of the Philistines proceeded to come up to her and to say to her; Fool him and see in what his great power is and with what we can prevail over him and with what we are certain to tie him so as to master him, and we, for our part, shall give you each one thousand one hundred silver pieces. (**Judges 16:5**)
 - Later Delilah said to Samson; Do tell me, please, in what is your great power and with what can you be tied for one to master you? (**Judges 16:6**)
 - Then Samson said to her; If they tie me with seven still-moist sinews that have not been dried out, I must also grow weak and become like an ordinary man. (**Judges 16:7**)
 - So the axis lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven still-moist sinews that had not been dried out. Later she tied him with them. (**Judges 16:8**)
 - Now the **ambush** was sitting in the interior room of hers, and she began to say to him; The Philistines are upon you, Samson! At that he tore the sinews in two, just as a twisted thread of tow is torn in two when it smells fire. And his power did not become known. (**Judges 16:9**)
 - Subsequently Delilah said to Samson; Look! You have trifled with me that you might speak lies to me. Now tell me, do please, with what you can be tied. (**Judges 16:10**)
 - So he said to her; If they tie me tight with new ropes with which no work has been done, I must also grow weak and become like an ordinary man. (**Judges 16:11**)
 - So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them and said to him; The Philistines are upon you, Samson! All the while the

ambush was sitting in the interior room. At that he tore them in two from off his arms like a thread. (**Judges 16:12**)

- Saul set an **ambush** against Amalek and later accused David of lying in **ambush** for him.
- And Saul proceeded to come as far as the city of Amalek and to lie in **ambush** by the torrent valley. (**1 Samuel 15:5**)
- For you have conspired, all of you, against me, and there is no one disclosing it to my ear when my own son concludes a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is no one of you having sympathy for me and disclosing to my ear that my own son has raised up my own servant against me as a liar in **ambush** the way it is this day. (**1 Samuel 22:8**)
- Other **ambushes** were those in the fight of Israel against the tribe of Benjamin.
- Then Israel set men in **ambush** against Gibeah all around. (**Judges 20:29**)
- And the sons of Israel proceeded to go up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day, and to draw up in formation against Gibeah the same as at the other times. (**Judges 20:30**)
- When the sons of Benjamin went on out to meet the people, they were drawn away from the city. Then, the same as at the other times, they started to strike down some of the people mortally wounded on the highways, one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah, in the field, about thirty men in Israel. (**Judges 20:31**)
- So the sons of Benjamin began to say; They are suffering defeat before us the same as at the first. As for the sons of Israel, they said; Let us flee, and we shall certainly draw them away from the city onto the highways. (**Judges 20:32**)
- And all the men of Israel rose up from their places and went drawing up in formation at Baal-tamar, while those of Israel in **ambush** were making a charge out of their places in the vicinity of Gibeah. (**Judges 20:33**)
- Thus ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel came in front of

Gibeah, and the fighting was heavy, and the Benjamites did not know that calamity was impending over them. ([Judges 20:34](#))

- And Yehowah proceeded to defeat Benjamin before Israel, so that the sons of Israel on that day brought down to ruin in Benjamin twenty-five thousand one hundred men, all of these drawing sword. ([Judges 20:35](#))
- However, the sons of Benjamin imagined that the men of Israel faced defeat when they kept giving ground to Benjamin because they trusted in the **ambush** that they had set against Gibeah. ([Judges 20:36](#))
- As for the **ambush**, they acted quickly and went dashing toward Gibeah. Then the ambush spread out and struck all the city with the edge of the sword. ([Judges 20:37](#))
- Now the men of Israel had come to the arrangement with the **ambush** for them to make a smoke signal go up from the city. ([Judges 20:38](#))
- When the sons of Israel turned around in the battle, Benjamin started to strike down about thirty men mortally wounded among the men of Israel, for they said; They are unquestionably suffering nothing but defeat before us just as in the first battle. ([Judges 20:39](#))
- And the signal started to go up from the city as a pillar of smoke. So when Benjamin turned his face back, look! The whole city went up heavenward. ([Judges 20:40](#))
- And the men of Israel made an about-face, and the men of Benjamin were disturbed, for they saw that calamity had reached them. ([Judges 20:41](#))
- Hence they turned before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness, and the battle followed them up closely, while the men from out of the cities were bringing them down to ruin in their midst. ([Judges 20:4](#))
- They surrounded Benjamin. They pursued him without a place to rest. They trampled him down directly in front of Gibeah toward the rising of the sun. ([Judges 20:43](#))

- Finally there fell eighteen thousand men of Benjamin, all of these being valiant men. ([Judges 20:44](#))
- The unsuccessful **ambush** of Judah by Jeroboam.
- And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an **ambush** around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of Judah and the ambush behind them. ([2 Chronicles 13:13](#))
- When those of Judah turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the trumpets. ([2 Chronicles 13:14](#))
- And the men of Judah broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. ([2 Chronicles 13:15](#))
- And the sons of Israel took to flight from before Judah, and then God gave them into their hand. ([2 Chronicles 13:16](#))
- And Abijah and his people went striking them down with a vast slaughter, and the slain of Israel kept falling down, five hundred thousand chosen men. ([2 Chronicles 13:17](#))
- Thus the sons of Israel were humbled at that time, but the sons of Judah proved superior because they leaned upon Yehowah the God of their forefathers. ([2 Chronicles 13:18](#))
- And Abijah kept chasing after Jeroboam and got to capture cities from him, Bethel and its dependent towns, and Jeshanah and its dependent towns, and Ephraim and its dependent towns. ([2 Chronicles 13:19](#))
- The **ambush** producing confusion among Judah's attackers in the days of Jehoshaphat.
- And at the time that they started off with the joyful cry and praise, Yehowah set men in **ambush** against the sons of Ammon, Moab and the mountainous region of Seir who were coming into Judah, and they went smiting one another. ([2 Chronicles 20:22](#))
- And the sons of Ammon and Moab proceeded to stand up against

the inhabitants of the mountainous region of Seir to devote them to destruction and annihilate them, and as soon as they finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped each one to bring his own fellow to ruin. ([2 Chronicles 20:23](#))

- Those mentioned in describing the fall of Jerusalem.
- Swifter than the eagles of the heavens our pursuers have proved to be. Upon the mountains they have hotly pursued us. In the wilderness they have lain in wait for us. ([Lamentations 4:19](#))
- And the **ambush** decreed against Babylon by Yehowah.
- Against the walls of Babylon lift up a signal. Make strong the watch. Post the watchmen. Make ready those lying in **ambush**. For Yehowah both has formed the idea and will certainly do what he has spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon. ([Jeremiah 51:12](#))
- The returning Jewish exiles were protected by Yehowah from **ambush**.
- Finally we pulled away from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem, and the very hand of our God proved to be over us, so that he delivered us out of the palm of the enemy and the **ambush** by the way. ([Ezra 8:31](#))

See Also WAR

- The **Hebrew** noun *‘e’rev*, meaning **ambush**, is used in describing hunting tactics.
- And the wild beast comes into the **ambush**, and in its hiding places it dwells. ([Job 37:8](#))
- When they crouch in the hiding places, or keep lying in the covert for an **ambush**? ([Job 38:40](#))
- The Hebrew verb *‘a-rav’* is used figuratively to describe the prostitute as she waylays men.
- Now she is outdoors, now she is in the public squares, and near every corner she **lies in wait**. ([Proverbs 7:12](#))

- Surely she, just like a robber, **lies in wait**, and among men she increases the treacherous ones. (**Proverbs 23:28**)
- And to describe the tactics of wicked one's against the innocent as well as the righteous.
- He keeps **lying in wait** in the concealed place like a lion in his covert. He keeps **lying in wait** to carry off some afflicted one by force. He carries off the afflicted one by force when he **draws his net shut**. (**Psalms 10:9**)
- If they keep saying; Do go with us. Do let us lie in **ambush** for blood. Do let us lie in concealment for the innocent men without any cause. (**Proverbs 1:11**)
- Consequently they themselves lie in **ambush** for the very blood of these, they lie in concealment for their souls. (**Proverbs 1:18**)
- The words of the wicked one's are a **lying in wait** for blood, but the mouth of the upright one's is what will deliver them. (**Proverbs 12:6**)
- Do not, as a wicked one, **lie in wait** for the abiding place of the righteous one, do not despoil his resting-place. (**Proverbs 24:15**)
- The loyal one has perished from the earth, and among mankind there is no upright one. All of them, for bloodshed they **lie in wait**. They hunt, everyone his own brother, with a dragnet. (**Micah 7:2**)
- If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I kept **lying in wait** at the very entranceway of my companion. (**Job 31:9**)
- In Israel the death penalty was decreed for the man found guilty of killing another after **lying in wait** to do it.
- But in case there should happen to be a man hating his fellowman, and he has **lain in wait** for him and has risen up against him and struck his soul fatally and he has died, and the man has fled to one of these cities. (**Deuteronomy 19:11**)
- The older men of his city must then send and take him from there, and they must deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, and he must die. (**Deuteronomy 19:12**)

- The more than 40 Jews who bound themselves with a curse plotted an **ambush** against the apostle Paul but were foiled by Paul's nephew.
- Now when it became day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with a curse, saying they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 23:12**)
- There were more than forty men that formed this oath-bound conspiracy. (**Acts of Apostles 23:13**)
- And they went to the chief priests and the older men and said, We have solemnly bound ourselves with a curse not to take a bite of food until we have killed Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 23:14**)
- Now, therefore, you together with the Sanhedrin make it clear to the military commander why he should bring him down to you as though you intended to determine more accurately the matters involving him. But before he gets near we will be ready to do away with him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:15**)
- However, the son of Paul's sister heard of their **lying in wait**, and he came and entered into the soldiers quarters and reported it to Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 23:16**)
- So Paul called one of the army officers to him and said; Lead this young man off to the military commander, for he has something to report to him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:17**)
- Therefore this man took him and led him to the military commander and said; The prisoner Paul called me to him and requested me to lead this young man to you, as he has something to tell you. (**Acts of Apostles 23:18**)
- The military commander took him by the hand and withdrew and began inquiring privately; What is it you have to report to me? (**Acts of Apostles 23:19**)
- He said; The Jews have agreed to request you to bring Paul down to the Sanhedrin tomorrow as though intending to learn something more accurate about him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:20**)
- Above all things, do not let them persuade you, for more than

forty men of theirs are lying in wait for him, and they have bound themselves with a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have done away with him, and they are now ready, waiting for the promise from you. ([Acts of Apostles 23:21](#))

- Therefore the military commander let the young man go after ordering him; Do not blab to anyone that you have made these things clear to me. ([Acts of Apostles 23:22](#))
- And he summoned a certain two of the army officers and said, Get two hundred soldiers ready to march clear to Caesarea, also seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night. ([Acts of Apostles 23:23](#))
- Also, provide beasts of burden that they may have Paul ride and convey him safely to Felix the governor. ([Acts of Apostles 23:24](#))
- And he wrote a letter having this form. ([Acts of Apostles 23:25](#))
- Claudius Lysias to his excellency, Governor Felix; Greetings! ([Acts of Apostles 23:26](#))
- This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be done away with by them, but I came suddenly with a force of soldiers and rescued him, because I learned he was a Roman. ([Acts of Apostles 23:27](#))
- And wishing to ascertain the cause for which they were accusing him, I brought him down into their Sanhedrin. ([Acts of Apostles 23:28](#))
- I found him to be accused about questions of their Law, but not charged with a single thing deserving of death or bonds. ([Acts of Apostles 23:29](#))
- But because a plot that is to be laid against the man has been disclosed to me, I am at once sending him to you, and commanding the accusers to speak against him before you. ([Acts of Apostles 23:30](#))
- Therefore these soldiers took Paul according to their orders and brought him by night to Antipatris. ([Acts of Apostles 23:31](#))
- The next day they permitted the horsemen to go on with him,

and they returned to the soldiers quarters. (**Acts of Apostles 23:32**)

- The horsemen entered into Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor and also presented Paul to him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:33**)
- So he read it and inquired from what province he was, and ascertained that he was from Cilicia. (**Acts of Apostles 23:34**)
- I shall give you a thorough hearing, he said; When your accusers arrive also. And he commanded that he be kept under guard in the praetorian palace of Herod. (**Acts of Apostles 23:35**)