

## 20.08 Battle at Ramoth Gilead; Ahab's Death (1 Kings 22:29–40; 2 Chronicles 18:28–34; 19:1–11)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [ . . . ] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *ivory*: a hard creamy-white substance found in the tusks of an elephant, walrus, or narwhal, often used to make ornaments and other articles; harvesting ivory is unlawful now
- *Aram*: some Bible translations use this name for *Syria*

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. 30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your robes.” And the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. 31 Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, “Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel.” 32 And when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “It is surely the king of Israel.” So they turned to fight against him. And Jehoshaphat cried out. [And Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him; God drew them away from him (2 Chronicles 18:32)]. For as soon as the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. 33 And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. 34 But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded.” 35 And the battle continued that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians, until at evening [sunset (2 Chronicles 18:34)] he died. And the blood of the wound flowed into the bottom of the chariot. 36 And about sunset a cry went through the army, “Every man to his city, and every man to his country!”

37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. 38 And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes washed themselves in it, according to the word of the Lord that he had spoken. 39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and the ivory house that he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 40 So Ahab slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

### Introduction/Review:

When Jezebel got Naboth's vineyard by slaying Naboth and when Elijah came to Ahab to tell him that his family would all die, Elijah added words that are pretty gross; so be warned. This is what he said: “In the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, the dogs will lick your blood” (1 Kings 21:19).

Jehoshaphat, good king of Judah [locate], had gone to visit Ahab, the wicked king of Israel [locate]. Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go to battle against Syria [locate] at Ramoth Gilead [locate]. When Jehoshaphat asked that God be consulted about going to war, Ahab's 400 false prophets answered, “Go ahead and go. You will win the battle.”

Jehoshaphat must have not believed those false prophets, for he asked for another prophet to speak. Micaiah, a true prophet of God, said Ahab would die and the people would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd. When Micaiah prophesied this, Zedekiah, a false prophet who had made iron horns, slapped Micaiah on the cheek and asked, “How did the Spirit of the Lord make me speak to you?”

Micaiah answered, “You will see on the day you go into an inside room to hide yourself.”

Who will Ahab believe—his prophets or Micaiah?

## Story:

### *Two kings fight the Syrians*

Ahab believed his own false and lying prophets who said he would win the battle. We know this because God had said he would believe them, and we know because the Bible said he went to battle. Jehoshaphat went too. Ahab must have been a little worried about the prophecy, though, for he said to good King Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself so that I don’t look like a king, but you can go ahead and wear your kingly robes.”

Now, I think this was very mean of Ahab. Who is more likely to be shot by an arrow—a king or a common soldier? Of course, the answer is a king, for his death would mean the whole army would be defeated. Indeed, the king of Syria actually commanded the 32 captains of his chariots, “Don’t bother fighting with common soldiers or even commanders of soldiers; fight only with the king of Israel.”

Sure enough, when the Syrians saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “This is certainly the king of Israel!” and they turned to fight against him. But Jehoshaphat cried out. The Bible doesn’t tell us what he cried. ✓Maybe he said, “Wait! I’m Jehoshaphat, king of Judah!” ✓Maybe he said, “Lord, help me!” What he said isn’t important. What is important is that “The Lord helped him, and God drew the Syrians away from him.”

O Jehoshaphat! How foolish of you to join God’s enemy! O God! How merciful of You to save Jehoshaphat from certain death.

### *Prophecy fulfilled*

Now, in this battle, one of the enemy soldiers, not aiming at anyone in particular, drew his bow and shot an arrow. [Teacher, take your time through the following sentence to add suspense.] That arrow flew through the air and struck right between two parts of Ahab’s armor ✓close to Ahab’s belly. In pain, Ahab cried, “Turn around; take me out of the battle; I am badly wounded!”

The battle continued with ferocity after Ahab was wounded. ✓To keep the enemy, and even his own men, from realizing how hurt he was, Ahab was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians. Blood from his wound flowed into the bottom of his chariot, and when the sun set, he died. The battle was over; the Syrians had won.

A cry went up from the army: “Everyone, go home to your own city and to your own country!” This announcement sounds very much like the words of the Lord through Micaiah the prophet: “Let each return to his home in peace.” Syrians and Israelites returned to their homes. King Jehoshaphat scurried safely home to Jerusalem.

### *Blood licked*

King Ahab was dead. Soldiers brought his body to Samaria to be buried. At the pool in Samaria they washed his chariot. Dogs licked Ahab’s blood from the chariot as they had licked Naboth’s blood.<sup>1</sup> Hadn’t God said this would happen? The family of Ahab was beginning to die in fulfillment of Elijah’s prophecy.

The shedding of Ahab’s blood was good for nothing but dogs. Although he had built a house of ivory<sup>2</sup> and had built cities in Israel, we know his life was worthless because he worshiped idols and not the true God.

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<sup>1</sup>In commenting on Elijah’s prophecy in 1 Kings 21:19 (“in the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine”), John Gill states, “[This] was fulfilled in his sons, who were his flesh and blood, ([2 Kings 9:26](#)), for the punishment was respited in his days, and transferred to his sons, see ([1 Kings 21:29](#)), though dogs did lick his blood, even his blood also, according to this prophecy, though not in the same place, see ([1 Kings 22:38](#)), wherefore some take these words not to be expressive of the place where, but of the cause or reason for which this should be done, and read the words, “inasmuch”, or “because dogs have licked”

[\(1 Kings 21:19 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)\).](#)

<sup>2</sup>John Gill tells us the ivory house, “being a very curious and extraordinary thing, is particularly mentioned; though perhaps it might not be made wholly of ivory, but inlaid with it; we read of ivory houses in (Amos 3:15)” [\(1 Kings 22:39 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)\).](#)

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

Although many soldiers on both sides of the battle were slain, Syria’s king mainly wanted King Ahab to be destroyed. Satan, although he tempts and harms many believers, seeks mainly to conquer Christ. He knows, however, that Christ will be the final Victor.

- Nothing in this life is “by chance.” God is in charge of every arrow that flies to its target.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: chariot; horses; bow and arrow
- Snack: fresh cauliflower (about the color of ivory) with dip
- Students may shoot a toy bow and arrow
- Review questions: (Game: If real arrows are available, let a student who answers a question correctly place an arrow in a container. Otherwise, print the six arrows found below on card stock and use them.)
  1. How did King Ahab dress for battle? [He did not wear his royal garments but wore an ordinary soldier’s clothing.]
  2. How did King Jehoshaphat dress for battle? [He wore his kingly robes.]
  3. How did King Jehoshaphat escape being killed by the Syrians? [The Lord helped him; God drew the Syrians away from him.]
  4. Describe the shooting of the arrow that killed Ahab. [“A certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate.]
  5. Where was Ahab during the remainder of the battle? [Propped up in his chariot.]
  6. What is significant about the blood in Ahab’s chariot? [God had said dogs would lick up Ahab’s blood just as they had licked Naboth’s blood.]

### **Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)**

- Psalm 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

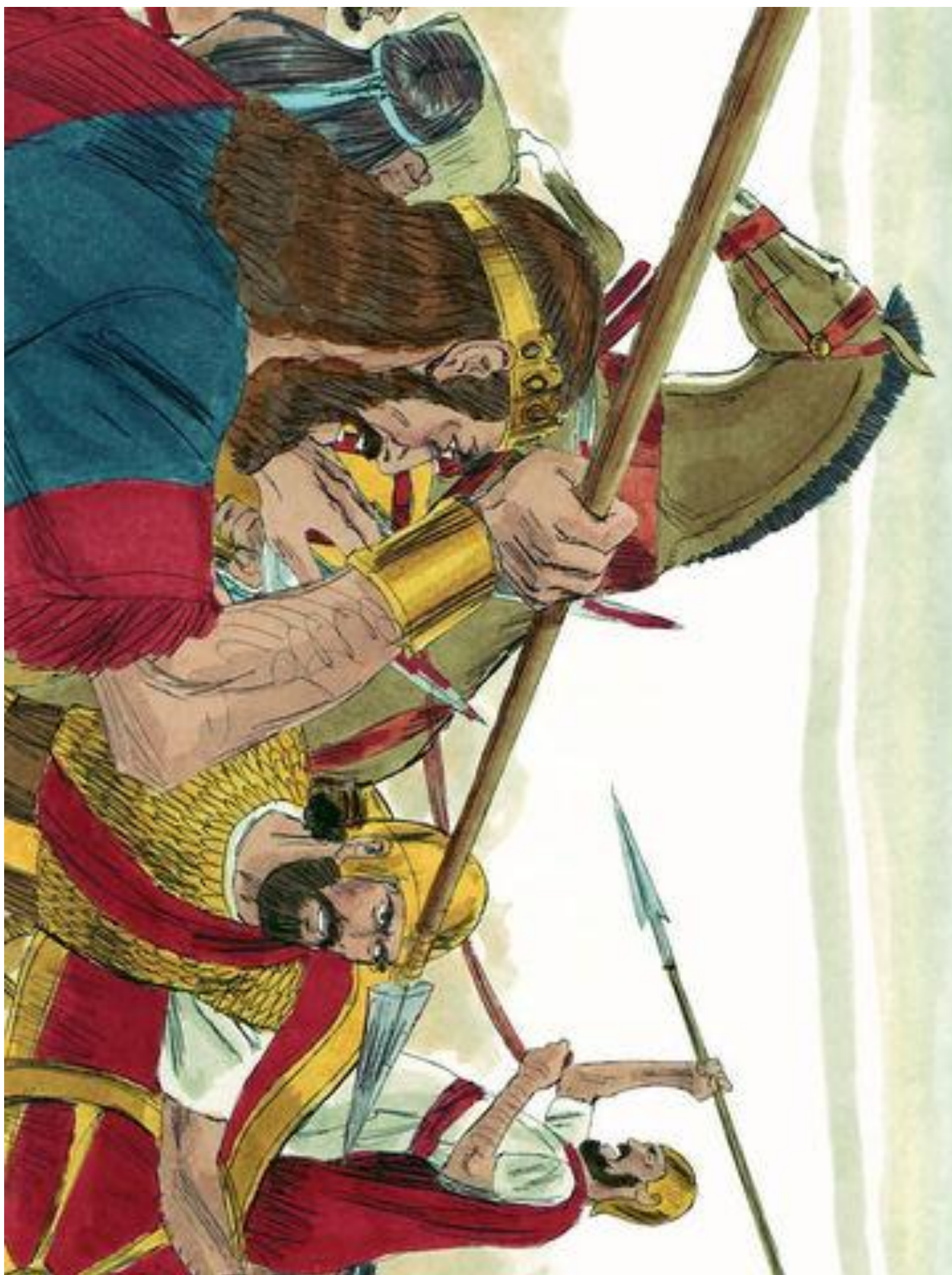
### **Handwork:**

- Print 2 line drawings of horses and 1 of the chariot found below for each student. Students will color the horses and cut them out, leaving the tab at the bottom, which will be folded so that the horses stand up. Glue the horses together at the manes only. Students will then cut out the chariot and bend (not fold) in half, stapling or gluing the back sides of the chariot together. Glue or tape string or very light twine to the horses as reins and attach to the chariot. Stand up both horses and the chariot.

**ivory**

**Aram**





[FreeBibleimages](#) :: Jehoshaphat and Ahab ignore God's message :: Jehoshaphat acts on the advice of false prophets rather than the warning from a prophet of God (1 Kings 22:1-40, 2 Chronicles 18:1-34)



[death of king ahab - Bing images](#)





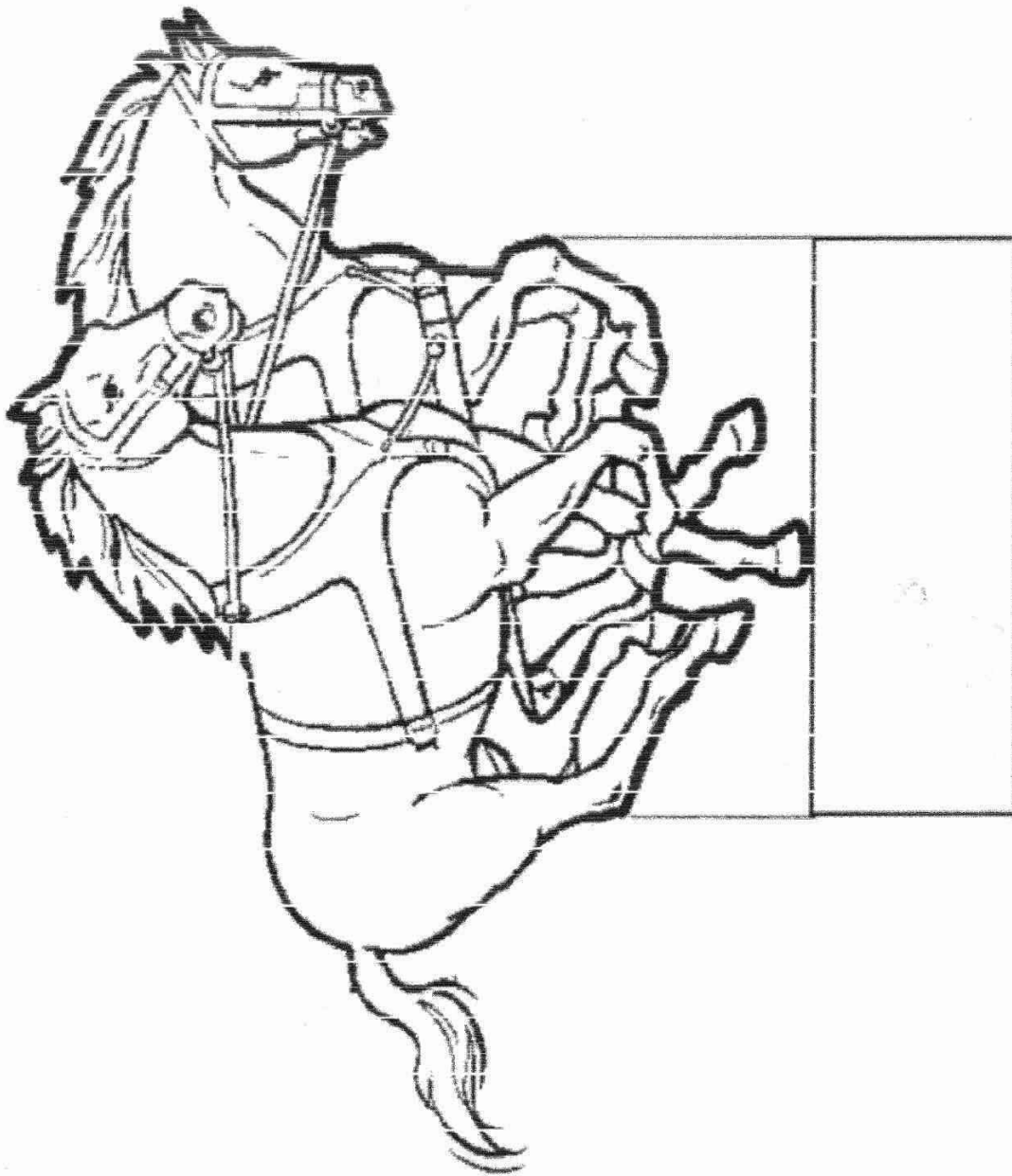
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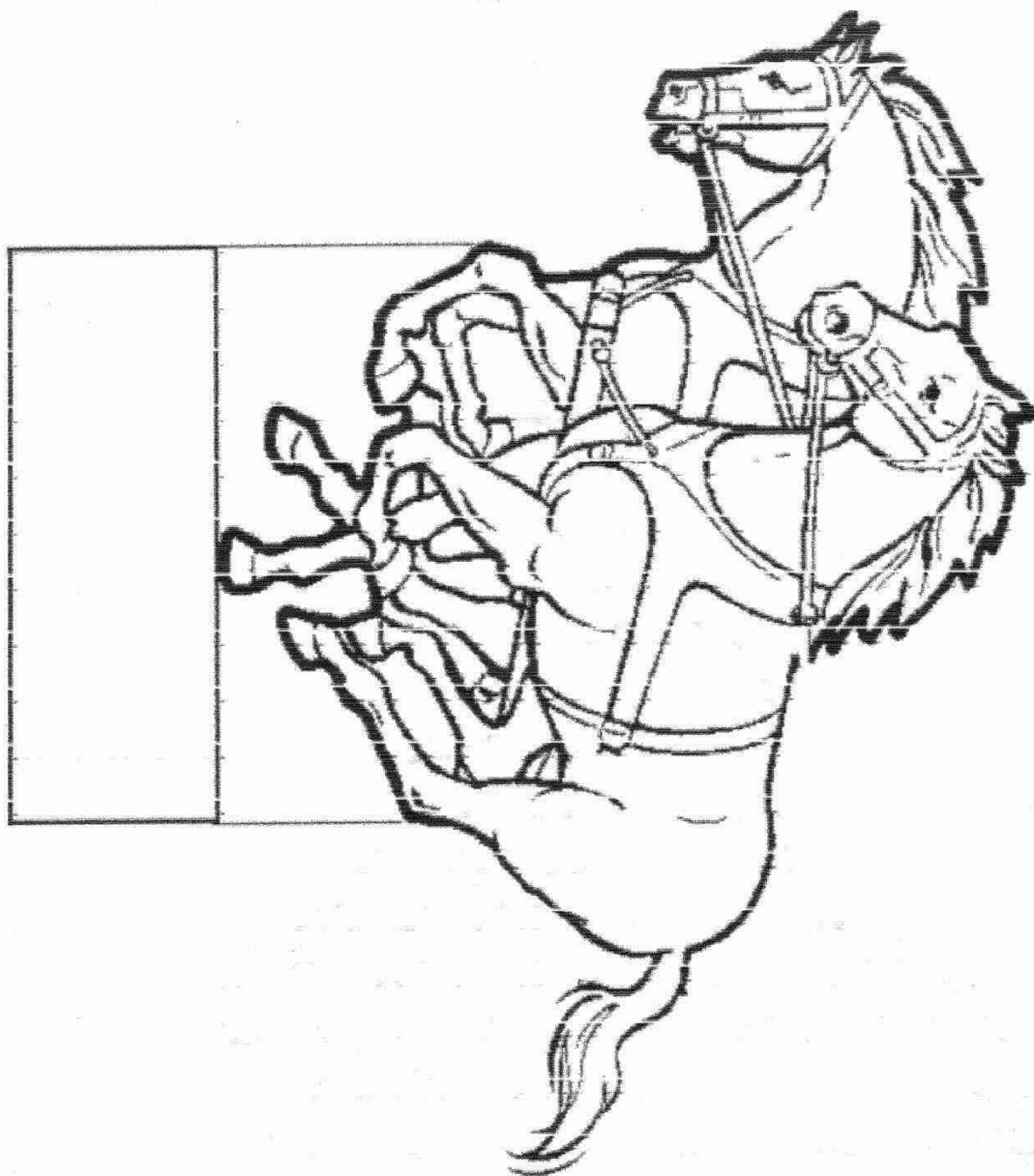


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