

Emails to Bill Koch re Joshua – 14 Feb 2007

Hi Bill,

Ooohhh - sorry it's caused such angst.

I will try to respond as best I can.

1 - I have no recording as such. The wav file I will attach has some wrong notes still and that's because I made it before I did the last edits. Well, James made it. It doesn't sound like the orchestration and I would be pleased if you dumped it after you have listened to it.

2 - Joshua led his people with strength and dignity but he must have felt alone at times. The Jewish people had a mind of their own and often did not listen to God. the opening is evocative of loneliness and strength all at once. It builds to produce and strong united segment with some middle eastern melodic patters and some sweeping woodwinds and resonant brasses.

The section at 33 is a reflection on the alone-ness of Joshua but his troops begin to gather and the all prayer for God's direction. The battle begins at 39. There is no specific battle considered here or at the recap later. It's just the great commander of Israel doing the job ordained for him. "Go in and possess the land.!"

At 116 - 138 - the trumpets call - like the beginning. Trumpets would have played a large part in battle and surely in his alone-ness Joshua would have heard them in his mind and his remembrance of battles gone by. Therefore the 'calls' here are the calls he remembers.

The transition from 142 into 149 is crotchet becomes quaver or in your language, quarter note becomes eighth note. The timpani keeps the battle feel going but it ebbs away with the prayers of the priest and the people in the single voices on the woodwinds and then all together leading up to those single voices again at 156 ff where the people, especially mothers and wives, weep over those lost.

162 - 199 is the famous Jericho siege. It's often referred to as a battle but Joshua was told what he had to do and he followed God's command and the city was taken. The trumpets blare, the troops march around the city and it crescendos across a period of time and then the walls come down at the blast of the trumpets (190 - 198)

Prayer and weeping for a moment again and then battle is rejoined at 202.

At 278 the section that became the trumpet calls previously now become Joshua's solemn vow. I note it in the score and I add it here for you again.

- He called the people together at Shechem and told them they must decide between the God of Israel (Yahweh) or the gods of the local population and he enjoined them to choose their nations God. He stated his position with the resolute commitment that, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord"

I hope this all helps Bill.

Thanks again for your interest.

Let them know this was written for an Aussie high school band in Sydney. Would you like to be in touch with them? The director?

Take care mate and give the band my warmest wishes

Ralph

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Hi,

Me again,

Tell the students it's the story of Joshua found in the book of his name in the Old Testament and the hand over from Moses at the end of Deuteronomy. Look especially at the first 9 verses of Joshua. If that's not a call to be God's man and to lead under God's instruction and promise that God will protect then I'm not all here!

Well, that may be so!

Cheers

Ralph