

JOSHUA

The story of the great commander of Israel

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned by Chatswood High School for the
Chatswood High School Symphonic Band
Gavin Staines - Conductor

World premiere – 8th of April 2006

Joshua

Program Note:

Joshua was a great commander of Israel, a leader of his people and a servant of God.

The perspective from which this work should be viewed is the one you choose for yourself. There may well be religious overtones (I am a devout believer) or it may well be just a really good story! The notes I wrote before I began to compose tell of the stories of battle and submission to his Lord, the God of Israel. They tell a story like this:

- His name means “The Lord is salvation”
- He was very close to Moses and went with him to Mt Sinai and became close to God, as Moses was
- Moses appointed him as leader of Israel
- He was a master tactician and fearless leader
- He helped spy out the ‘promised land’
- Among other battles, he fought the legendary battle for Jericho
- He commanded the sun to stand still at Gibeon and the moon at Ajalon
- 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 nation’s God. He stated his position with the resolute commitment that, “As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord”

I hope you enjoy the work and the story it brings to your ears – religious overtones or not!

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