

# Baalbek, Megalithic ruins from 7,000 B.C.

Article by Rob Lund

Baalbek is a town in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon. It is famous for its exquisitely detailed yet monumentally scaled temple ruins of the Roman period, when Baalbek, then known as Heliopolis (City of the Sun), was one of the largest sanctuaries in the Empire. It is Lebanon's greatest Roman treasure, and it can be counted among the wonders of the ancient world, containing some of the largest and best preserved Roman ruins.



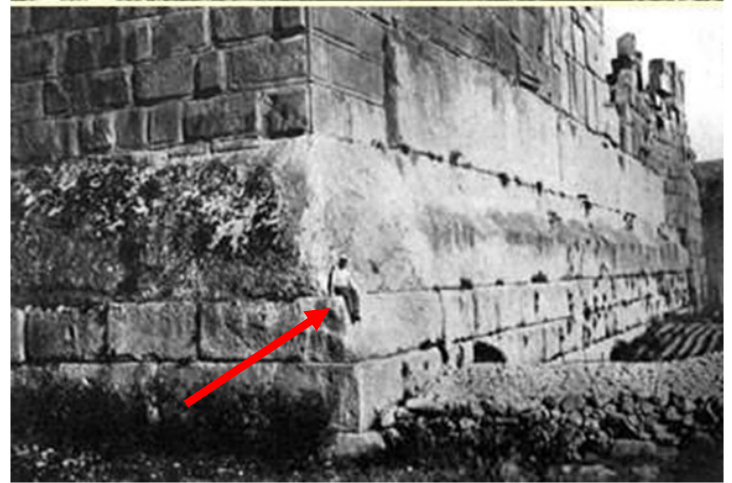
At 290 feet long, 160 feet wide, the Temple of Jupiter Baal ("Heliopolitan Zeus") in Baalbek, Lebanon, was created to be the largest religious complex in the Roman Empire. This temple was built on a "tel" or ruin mound, indicating a place that had long been held sacred. As impressive as this is, one of the most impressive aspects of this site is almost hidden from view: beneath and behind the ruined remains of the temple itself are three massive stone blocks called the Trilithon.

These three stone blocks are the largest building blocks ever used by *any* human beings *anywhere* in the world. Each one is 70 feet long, 14 feet high, 10 feet thick, and weighs around 800 tons. This is larger than the incredible columns created for the Temple of Jupiter, which are also 70 feet tall but measure a mere 7 feet -- and those weren't constructed from single pieces of stone. In each of the following two images, you can see people next to the Trilithon to provide reference for how large they are: in the top image a person is standing to the far left and in the bottom image a person is sitting on a stone about in the middle.

Beneath the Trilithon are another six huge building blocks, each 35 feet long and thus also larger than most building blocks used by humans anywhere else. No one knows how these stone blocks were cut, transported from the nearby quarry, and fitted so precisely together. In the quarry, about half a mile away from the Trilithon, is an even bigger block. It measures 69 x 16 x 14 feet and weighs about 1,170 metric tons. Even with today's most modern equipment, moving these blocks would be almost impossible.

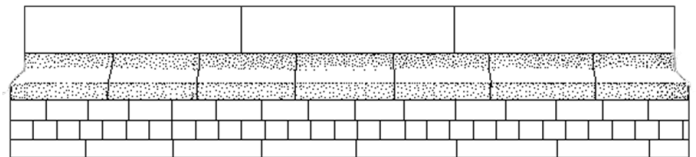
The massive and elegant Roman stonework and columns pale by comparison to the megaliths they were built upon. The Romans did not use this type of stonework, and is a further indication that they were not designed for the temple, but predate it considerably. To further increase their mysterious origin and original use, these megaliths are not "foundation stones" as they are always declared. They represent the top course of stones of the original edifice, whatever that may have been. Whatever its purpose, it was the greatest stones that were placed on top, not on the bottom. The whole edifice is in-

verted in concept, fact and layout. Below them at least 3 tiers of stones can be found, much smaller though still monumental in size. Another indication that they are not part of the Roman temple is that, while the Romans built the back of their temple wall flush with three of these stones, on one of the sides of the temple of Jupiter, the perimeter clearly falls short of the width of the original megalithic



structure, allowing a tier of megaliths to protrude obtrusively from the temple foundation— incongruous if they were simply foundation stones for the Roman temple. But it seems the Romans could not extend the building far enough to cover the layout of megaliths.

The oldest part of the ruins at Baalbek fits absolutely no known cul-



ture, and was originally employed for some mysterious purpose. What could that purpose be? Why was it considered sacred? Perhaps the best clue is in the name, known to the Sumerians as "The Landing Place"! I'll leave that to your imagination. Or, you can read Zechariah Sitchin's "Earth Chronicles" for an answer.