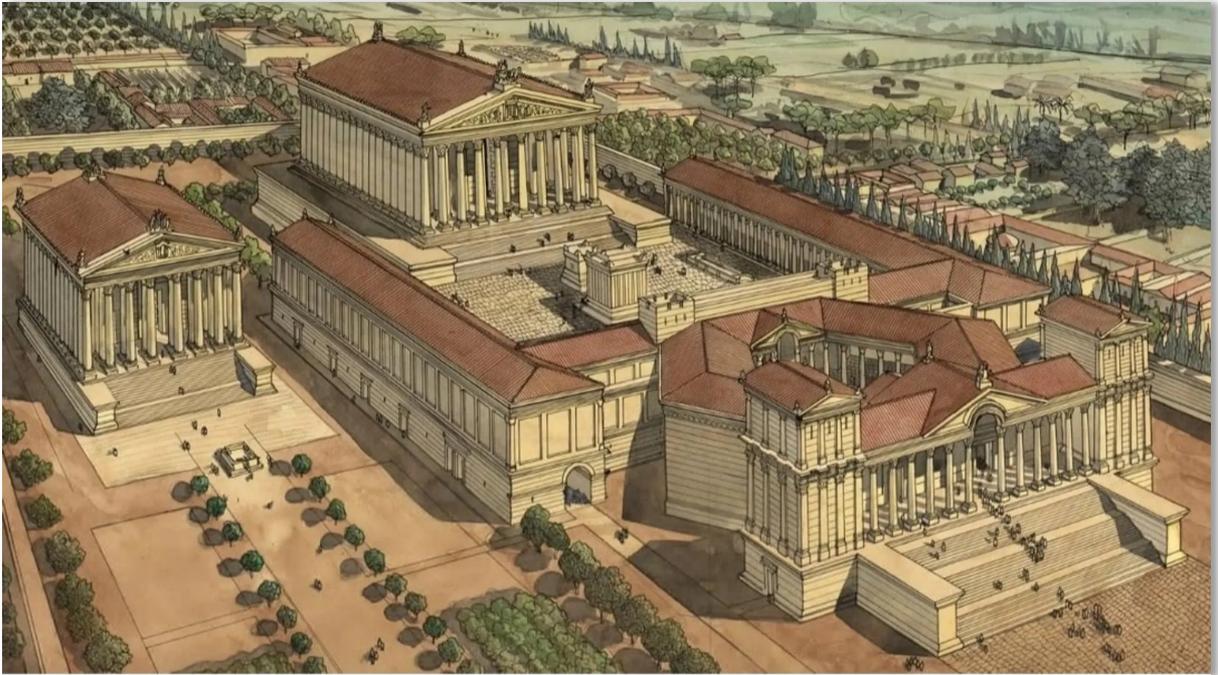


BAALBEK

A marvel of past and present times



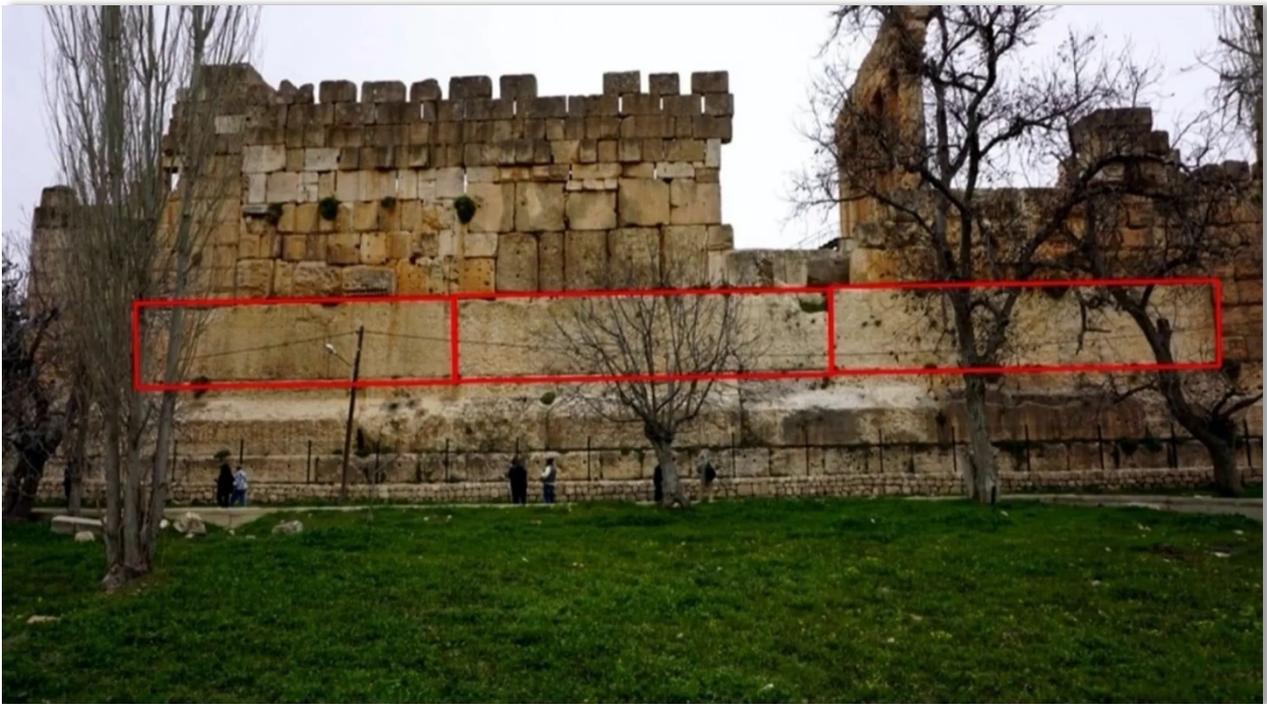
Baalbek the city of the God Baal, the Phoenician Sun God, the place where it said Gods walked with the humans and the place where demigods came to ask for their immortality. A place where history is still alive and where mysteries are in plain sight but well hidden. A place where great architects created marvelous jewels but which has remained long forgotten. The site is composed of two different layers both considered today wonders of architecture:

The first layer, which is part of the greatest mystery of human history, is the platform. The "Perfect Square" Platform underneath the Jupiter Temple which was built with enormous stones, the biggest man-made stones in the world. This platform is much older than the later Roman temple built above and there are many local legends about the origin of this platform: "Cain built it to hide from the wrath of God"; "giants built it at Nimrod's command, and it came to be called the Tower of Babel"; "King Solomon built it, with djinns' assistance, as a palace for the Queen of Sheba".

What, for example, was the point of cutting such enormous rocks? And why were there no other sites that look like Baalbek? Why had the work been abandoned midway? One research concludes that the temple platform must have been built by contemporaries of Noah, using the same technological prowess that enabled the construction of the ark. Work was halted because of the flood, which swept away all the similar sites, leaving the enigma of Baalbek alone on the face of the earth.

According to Estfan Doueihi (1630-1704), an ancient Maronite Patriarch of Lebanon: "Tradition states that the fortress of Baalbek... is the most ancient building in the world. Cain, the son of Adam, built it in the year 133 of the creation, during a fit of raving madness. He gave it the name of his son Enoch and peopled it with giants who were punished for their iniquities by the flood".

The western wall of the 'Temple of Jupiter' contains some of these immense blocks which are called 'trilithon', they are at least twenty feet above ground level.



~**The second layer** is formed by the Roman massive temples. Using the ancient platform, Romans built two of the largest and grandest Roman temple ruins in the world: The Temple of Bacchus and the Temple of Jupiter.

Why did the Romans build their biggest temples in Baalbek and not in Rome and never did it again is another mystery.

Baalbek ruins are in a very good state and one of the best preserved temples from the ancient world.

The Bacchus temple still receives every summer till today, artists from all over the world during the famous Baalbek International Festival as it would during its era.



The Temple of Jupiter at Baalbek is well known as one of the largest temple complexes ever constructed on this planet from the largest blocks of masonry ever produced by mankind.

Reverting to ancient stories, King Solomon held a "KEY" unlocking a heavenly secret!!
Is this Temple ruin representing the Key of Solomon secret?

There has been much speculation among researchers whether the Baalbek ruin represents a man holding a key like the statue of St Peter at the Vatican.

DOES THE TEMPLE DEPICT KING SOLOMON HOLDING HIS 'KEY'?

TEMPLE OF JUPITER AT BAALBEK

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**TEMPLE
RESEMBLING
HUMAN FORM
IN LEBANON**



Next to the Baalbek temple is the quarry where the ancient operative stonemasons would cut the massive stones.

There, we can behold some stones that are even bigger than those used for the temple platform such as “The pregnant woman's stone -1200 tons” which until today keeps the mystery of Baalbek locked.



The Temple of Baalbek, was and will remain a tribute to the mystery of a place where the synthesis of West and East, real and imaginary, present and past meet...

By Octavian Gheorghiu