



The Mystery of the Stones of Baalbek

In the middle course of masonry of the outer wall of a first-century Roman Temple dedicated to the god Jupiter-Baal, in Baalbek, Lebanon, there are three great red granite stones each measuring 20 meters long by 4 meters high by 3 meters thick.

How were these three massive cut stones lifted into place? Each stone weighs in the region of 1,000,000 kg, which is two or three times the weight of the heaviest obelisk stones moved in ancient Egypt.

Even more puzzling is that the **largest cut-stone known to exist anywhere** (shown here) is found in the quarry within sight of the temple about half a mile away, apparently abandoned. This stone is over 22 meters long and roughly 4.5 meters square. Its enormity can be judged by noticing the small figure of a man sitting on its top with his friend just below and slightly to the right.

How were these stones moved and why was the last stone (which is only a little heavier than the others) abandoned after being moved 100 meters?