

BAALBEK

65 mi Beirut. 3839 ft. 40 mi N Damascus. 1st blew is 6 pillars of Great Temple. Known since days of Phoenicians. Worshipped Baal-Haddad, sun-god. Center of traffic NS, E & W. 10 th C. B.C. May be town Solomon built, Baalath, 1 Kg 9:18. May also be identical with Gaalgad, Josh 11:17. After conquered by Alex Gt named Heliopolis, City of the Sun. Romans (J. Caesar) conquered in 60 BC. Temples honoring Jupiter, Venus, Bacchus built then. Some say Great Temple (Jupiter-Hadad) begun under Antoninus Plus in A.D. 160 and completed by Caracalla in 216. Others say begun earlier in Xn era under Augustus Caesar. At time of Constantine a Xn ch erected within Altar Court. Baalbek under Arab control in AD 636. Some of largest stones ever quarried here. One is 68 ft long, 17 wide, 14 high. Had to be moved a mile, lifted on structure 23 ft above ground, and joined so well that you cannot drive a razor blade between. Earthquakes, fires, wars, vandalism destroyed.

Great Temple to Jupiter. Originally 54 columns, now 6. From end to end temple area 1000 ft. Staircase at entrance. Then Great Court of Altar. Stair leading to Great Temple. Court of Altar 350 ft wide, 380 ft long. 2 Altars. Lined with niches containing statues of Roman deities, now gone. Above was shrine to Jupiter. 310x175 is this Temple to Jupiter. 54 columns originally, 66 ft high. 3 sections held together with copper.

Temple of Bacchus. Recently restored. Pillars support ornamented ceiling with busts of Venus, Vulcan, Mars, Diana, Victory, Bacchus, Ceres. Columns 52 ft high.