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Document Title: "Juvenal Satire III"

Written Assignments #3

First Impressions	
1 st Impressions?	This was a difficult document to understand as so many of the words, sentence structures, and names were confusing or unfamiliar. It seems that Juvenal is wholly unsatisfied with Rome and life in the city and wishes he could leave for the countryside like his friend Umbricius who is clearly romanticizing what life would be like there.
Kind of document? Clues?	This is a satire but it is difficult for me to catch much of the humor. There is a lot of sarcasm and exaggeration like when he says that most of the iron in Italy is used to chain prisoners instead of making tools. (302) Most of what is written is actually from Umbricius' voice.
Looking More Closely	
Any unusual words, phrases, or concepts?	There were many words and phrases that I didn't fully understand but nothing that seemed particularly unusual or other worldly like some of the other documents we have read.
Date included? Date inferred from clues?	I cannot find much for internal dating clues but from research it appears that it was written around 110 CE
Location indicated? Location inferred from clues?	It is written about Rome and likely from Rome since Juvenal is longing so badly to leave.
Author? Clues to authorship?	Juvenal is clearly known as the author
Recipients? Clues to the audience?	I didn't notice many clues to who the audience was to for this satire but I'm guessing it was wealthy, elites as they would have been the only ones who could have read his work and would have had the leisure time for reading satires. This does seem like an odd audience, though, as he complains about those who are prosperous in Rome saying they are immoral and the only ones who can live well in such a corrupt city.
Purpose? What made you think this (clues)?	The main (and really only) point made in this document is how horrible of a city Rome is and how a person must be corrupt and immoral to live a prosperous life there. Juvenal must be trying to raise up some sort of disdain for the city in his readers or to leave them upset and unsatisfied with how the Roman world operates by oppressing the poor and penalizing any morality.
Thinking Further	
What is the most important piece of info from the writer's perspective?	Both the immorality of the successful in Rome and the dangers of impoverished living (fires, being unable to sleep, not being found truthful) are the two main themes that are constantly being brought up over and over. It seems that these are the two main arguments Juvenal is trying to hammer into his audience as the pitfalls of Roman life.
What is the tone of the document?	The whole document is one long complaint. It seems that Juvenal has sprinkled in humor to lighten the topic a bit but overall it is very negative and at some

	points pretty angry.
What is the writer's point of view? Objective or biased?	The author is definitely biased against the impending cultures polluting into Roman and the people who are migrating in and making it an overcrowded and unsafe city to live in. He blames much of the negative aspects of life in Rome on foreigners and what they have brought to the city. Juvenal and Umbricius are also clearly biased that life in the country is easy and simple without much hard work or dangers which is likely untrue.
Attitude toward Israel's God? Attitude toward the nations' gods?	Very little mention of Israel's God or other gods.
Attitude toward other Jews?	The only mention of the Jews is in the beginning when Juvenal complains that the Jews are renting out the shrine that was originally used for Rome's religious activities. He seems to see the Jews as unwanted foreigners who are pushing out Romans and their culture.
Attitude toward non-Jews or those ruling the Jews?	Juvenal clearly dislikes the Greeks saying he avoids them above all others (58) and that they are deceivers (86).. It seems that Juvenal has a disdain for any sort of foreigner or outside culture coming into Rome.
Views of Torah?	The Torah isn't mentioned as Jews are not a main subject in this document
Views of Jewish customs or institutions?	Jewish custom is not mentioned
Attitude toward morality or natural law?	It seems that in Rome there is no morality at all, just corruption. Umbricius says that he can't make a living in Rome because he doesn't live a moral-less life (he doesn't lie, kill people, practice magic, steal, blackmail, etc) and those are the only people who can thrive in Rome. (41)
Does the document remind you of any biblical event, character, or book?	This just makes me think of the many NT commands like Romans 12:2 to not conform to the world and it's corrupt ways of operating but to live holy lives. This would have been such a difficult but important command for Christians attempting to live as God had called them to among such immorality in Rome.

Summary Statement: How does this document give insight into the beliefs and concerns of Jews for the historical period being investigated? How does it add to what the textbooks say about the period?

Many Jews and Christians are relocating to Rome and their very survival was in jeopardy in such an oppressive city. This document paints a pretty horrid picture of life in Rome—its corruption, its oppression of the poor, and its general overcrowding, noise pollution, and dangers. Jews who moved into the city were likely lower class as the foreigners and were the ones facing oppression and living in unsafe conditions. The challenges of just surviving in Rome as a poor person are dramatically told in this Satire which says that a person living on the upper levels of an apartment would burn to death before being able to escape, that a poor person will never be believed in court simply because of their appearance, and much more.

It also brings into perspective the pressure early Christians were facing of adopting the Roman way of life. Juvenal, through Umbricius, outlines that only the corrupt people who will lie, kill, practice magic,

steal, and more will be able to fit into the operating system of the Romans. The ways of the Jews and the commands of Jesus fly drastically in the face of this way of life. The temptation to be able to fit in and make a living by adopting the corrupt ways of Roman living would be heavy on Christians and they would need the constant reminders given by the New Testament authors to resist.