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Visual Comparison

We as Christians today are extremely blessed to have the very Word of God so readily accessible and I say that with the utmost joy. If you're out of the house and forgot your physical Bible but have a cellphone guess what? You can open your Bible app and choose from over 50 translations! Not only is the Bible practically free, but it is entirely complete. That is something that will continue to wow me for my entire life on earth. We have a complete Bible. How did that come to be? 66 books and every word is there for us. When given the opportunity to take a look at manuscripts of the Bible I jumped to my feet and smiled ridiculously hard. I love the Bible.

The manuscript I decided to compare with my ESV Bible was the 1 Peter 5:5-13 fragment that dates back to between 250-400 CE. Immediately my first observation from a quick look saw that for one the manuscript was not completed, likely a result of the material papyrus. My 1 Peter 5:5-13 is complete thanks to the work of a team of translators and archaeologists who have found the other fragments and pieced them together. A second visual observation I noticed was the difference in length, although the photo is digital my english version appears to have many more words and my 5-13 verses seem to go on longer than the original greek text. An observation that really looks at and acknowledges the translation process and how a word in the greek must be translated using multiple words in our english language. My third observation is that the original greek text was handwritten compared to my bible which is printed, there was a time where the Word of God was handwritten and not so easily accessible in regards to portability and having at home. Finally my final observation of the differences between the greek

and english text is grammar; In my ESV I see commas, periods, semicolons and hyphens yet the greek seems to not have any of the like.

Though only 4 observations the difference is extremely noticeable. A simple look at the original text and my ESV bible and I already realize how different the world was at that time.