

Jo 14:17  
What reads P75?

NA<sup>27</sup> John 14:17 τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὃ ὁ κόσμος οὐ δύναται λαβεῖν, ὅτι οὐ θεωρεῖ αὐτὸ οὐδὲ γινώσκει· ὑμεῖς γινώσκετε αὐτό, ὅτι παρ' ὑμῖν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν ἔσται.

ἔστίιν P66\*, B, D\*, W, 0211, f1, 69, 22, 565, pc, it, Sy-C, Sy-P, WH, Trg

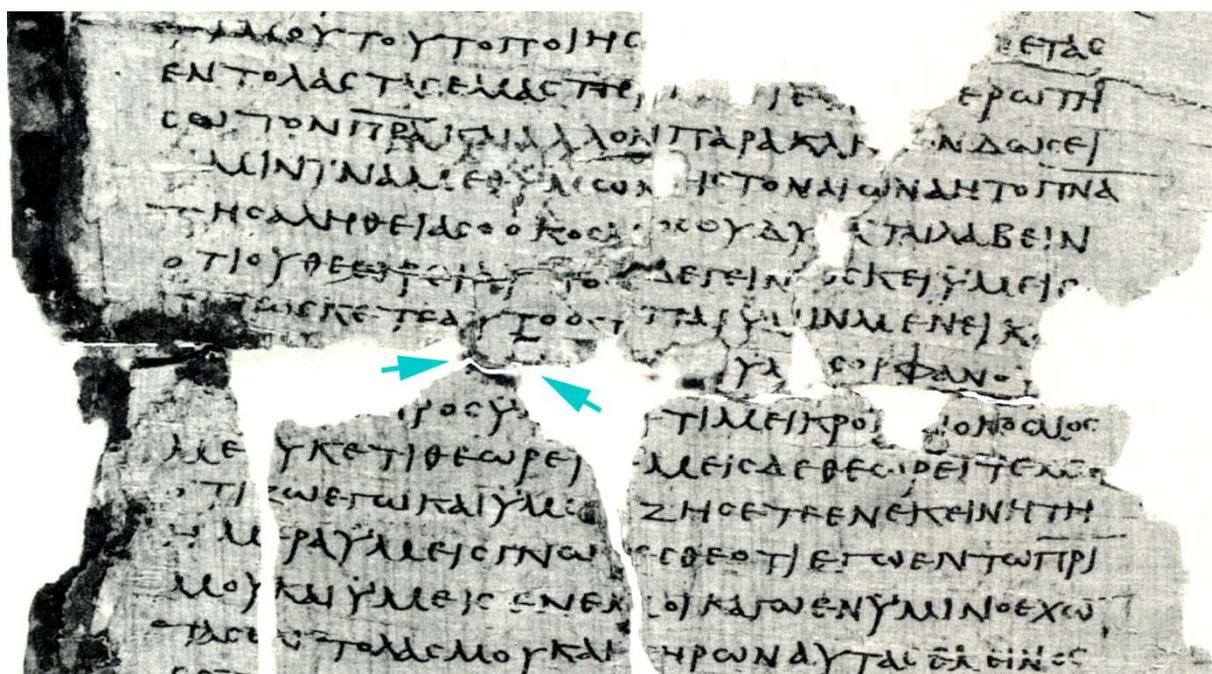
txt P66<sup>C</sup>, P75?, 01, A, D<sup>C2</sup>, Q, X, Θ, Ψ, 0141, f13, 33<sup>vid</sup>, 157, 579, 1071, Maj, aur, r<sup>1</sup>, vg, Sy-S, Sy-H, Sy-Pal, Co, arm, WH<sup>mg</sup>, NA<sup>25</sup>

The reading, given as ...]αῖ in the ed.pr. and reproduced like that in Swanson, isn't clear at all. The printed NA does not give the notation for txt. The online NA indicates P75 as completely missing for this word, which is probably correct.

This is the final part of P75 where several pages are glued together, because they were used for the binding apparently. Not everything has been photographed. The ed.pr. writes: "Cette page d'un feuillet utilisé pour la confection de la reliure n'a pu être photographiée."

Fortunately the part containing Jo 14:17 is shown on the last photo given in the ed.pr.

Below is the area in question. At this point the papyrus is broken. The fragments on the photo are only roughly aligned, so first I had to rearrange them slightly to fit better:



The text reads:

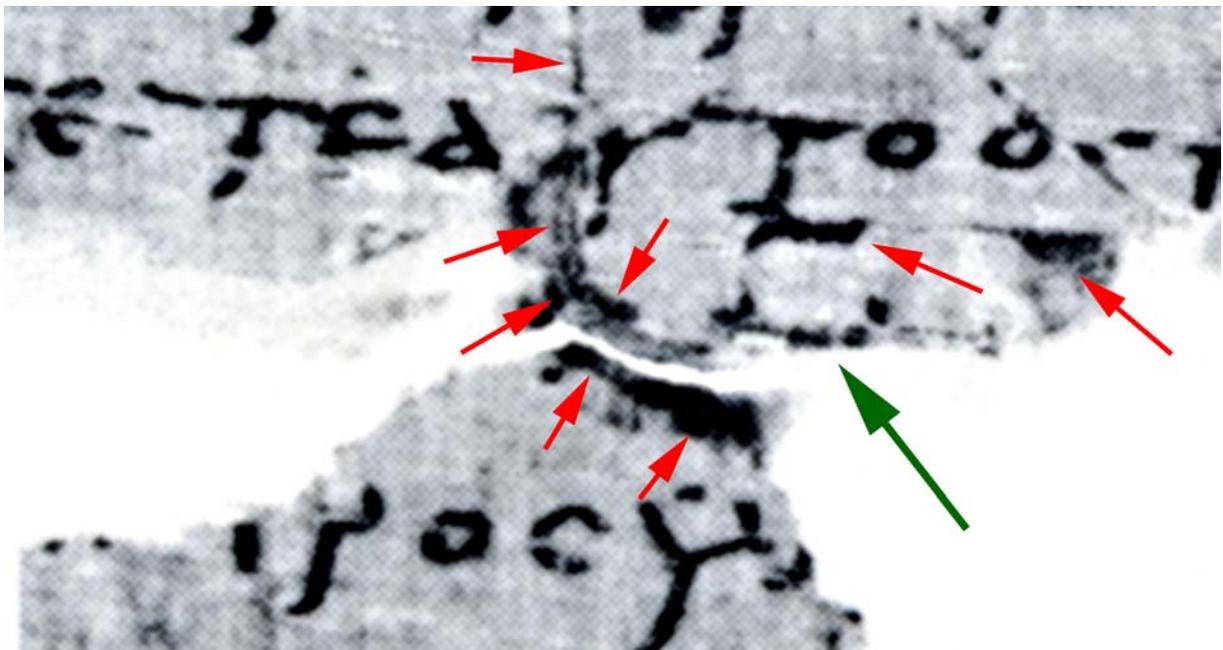
17 τὸ πνεῦμα  
τῆς ἀληθείας, ὃ ὁ κόσμος οὐ δύναται λαβεῖν,  
ὅτι οὐ θεωρεῖ αὐτὸ οὐδὲ γινώσκει· ὑμεῖς  
γινώσκετε αὐτό, ὅτι παρ' ὑμῖν μένει καὶ  
ἐν ὑμῖν **ἔσται**. 18 Οὐκ ἀφήσω ὑμᾶς ὀρφανούς,  
ἔρχομαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς. 19 ἔτι μικρὸν καὶ ὁ κόσμος  
με οὐκέτι θεωρεῖ, ὑμεῖς δὲ θεωρεῖτέ με,  
ὅτι ἐγὼ ζῶ καὶ ὑμεῖς ζήσετε.

Reconstruction of P75:

ot iouqewreiaut oudegeinwskeiueis  
geinwsket eaut oot iparuminmeneikai  
enumin**est ai**oukaf hswumasorf anous  
erc omaiprosumaset imeikronkaiokosmos  
meouket iqewreiuemeisdeqewreit eme

The ed.pr. gives the line in question thus:

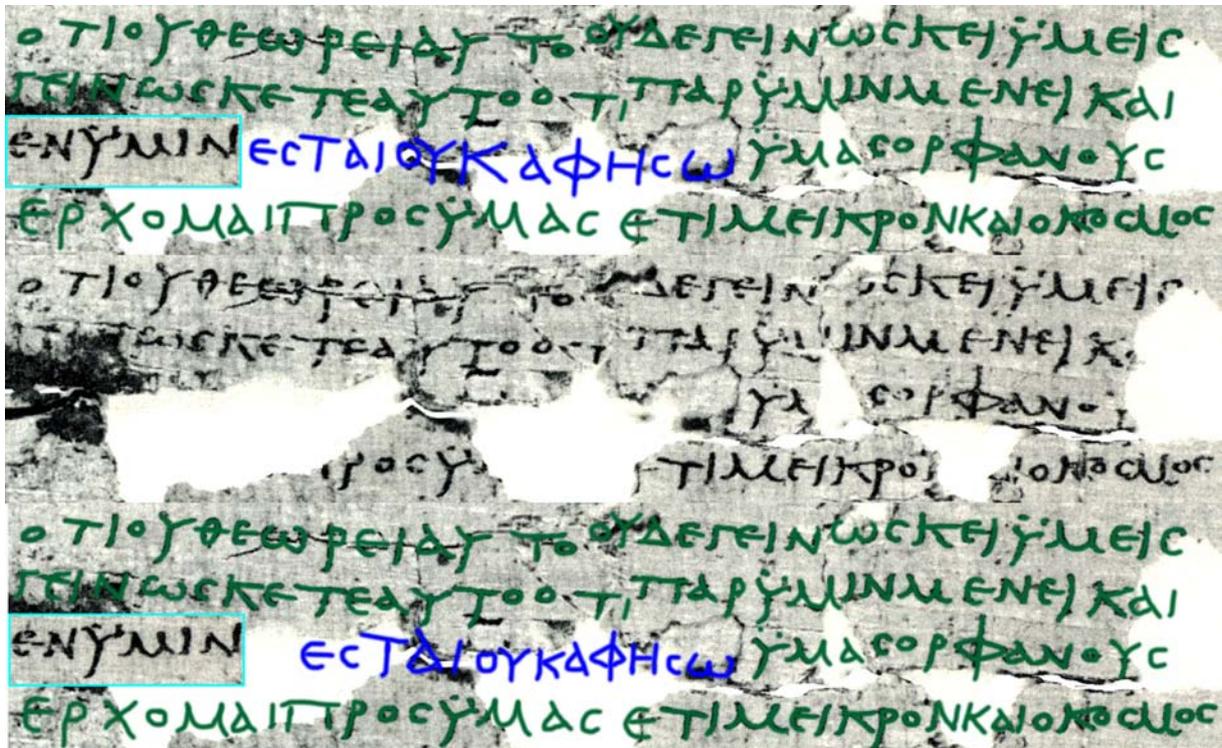
εν υμιν εστ]αι [ουκ αφ]η[σω] υμᾶς ορφανου[ς]



At the point in question several fragments meet. What I have indicated above with red arrows is delocalized ink, conglomerrated at the borders of the fragments. The only ink to be *possibly* at its original state is indicated with a green arrow, but this is doubtful at the least.

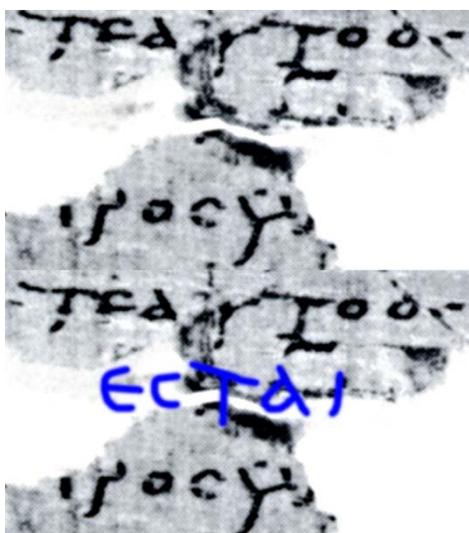
The only place where the editors could have seen any letters is at the junction shown above. But if we assume at this position the αλ from ἔσται, the space does not fit very good. οὐκ ἀφήσω must be written rather cramped.

This is shown below:



The lightblue encircled ἐν ὑμῖν has been copied from several lines below. The bottom part reconstructs with ἔσται at the presumed position. The top reconstruction shows how the text more probably was. Whatever the word was, ἔσται or ἐστίν, it is now completely within a lacuna.

There are other ink traces after the presumed Alpha which could also have been interpreted as αλ by the original editors:



But then the problem becomes even more pressing. The more ἔσται moves to the right, the less space is there to fit οὐκ ἀφήσω in and the larger the space in front of ἔσται becomes.

In my view nothing can be made out clearly at the junction of the two papyrus fragments. There is a lot of ink, but most of it looks out of place.

Space considerations clearly suggest that ἔσται or ἐστίν already ended before the point in question and what we see are just irregular ink remains. Probably the word οὐκ was originally present here.

I asked Timothy Janz, who is responsible for P75 in the Vatican library to look at this. Here's his response:

"Here again we have the odd situation that the state of the papyrus as it arrived in Rome in 2007 does not correspond exactly to the 1961 photo. In the present state of the papyrus, there is no papyrus -- and therefore, of course, no trace of writing -- in the position required for any of the letters of the word εσται. There is also nothing (i.e. no papyrus and of course no trace of letters) in the place where, in the 1961 photo, one can read what seems to be the epsilon of αυτο (in the preceding line). As a result, the only correct notation today is that of the online NA, which indicates that the word εσται is entirely lacking in P75."

Conclusion:

It appears that the papyrus has deteriorated considerably since the 1960s. No remains of ἔσται or ἐστίν can be found. P75 must be cited as having a lacuna here.