

Author(s): Rice, Heather; Zigerell, Jr. L. J., and Barker, David
Title: ANES 2006 Pilot Report: Eschatology Items
Date: 2007
Dataset: 2006 ANES Pilot Study

Abstract:

Surveys over the past decade have provided substantial evidence that a “God Gap” is widening among American citizens, such that the political differences between those who are strict in their religious faith and those who hold no specific faith are quite large and predictable (Olson and Green, 2006). Those strict in their faith are more likely to identify with the Republican Party and hold conservative attitudes on social issues while secular Americans are significantly more likely to identify with the Democratic Party. The NES currently includes a series of questions regarding religious practice and denominational affiliation but only one question on specific religious beliefs. To better understand and identify the “God Gap,” the ANES Pilot 2006 included two questions measuring end-time beliefs of its respondents. While these questions do not explicitly measure Christian eschatology, the authors of this report believe these items can adequately tap into those beliefs.