

ANES 2006 PILOT REPORT: ESCHATOLOGY ITEMS

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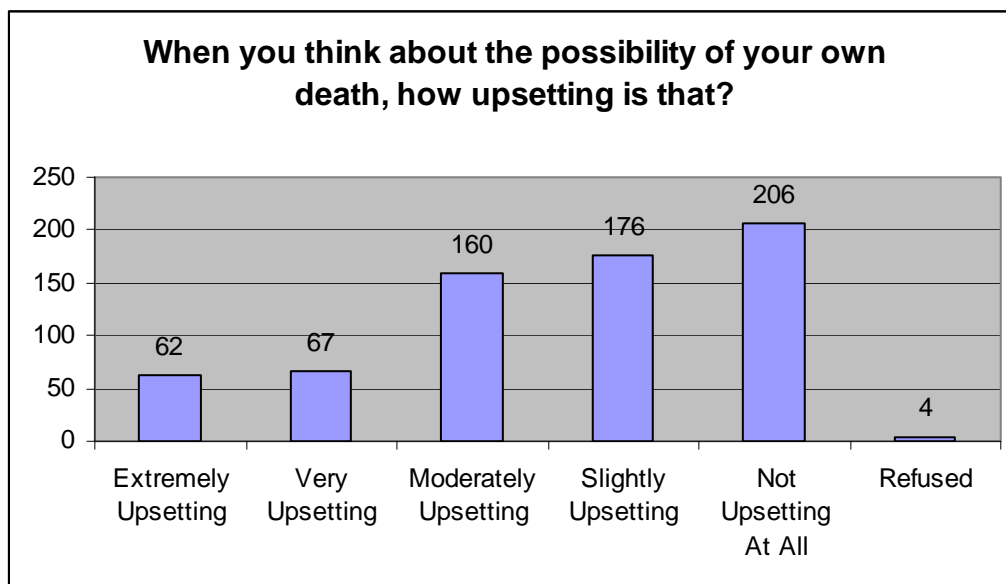
Surveys over the past decade have provided substantial evidence that a “God Gap” is widening among American citizens, such that the political differences between those who are strict in their religious faith and those who hold no specific faith are quite large and predictable (Olson and Green, 2006). Those who are strict in their faith are considerably more likely to identify with the Republican Party and hold conservative attitudes on social issues. Quite the opposite is true for secular Americans, in that they are significantly more likely to identify with the Democratic Party.

The NES currently asks respondents a series of questions regarding their religious practice (praying and attending services), as well as their denominational affiliation. However, the NES currently only includes one question regarding the specific religious belief of its respondents. This question – regarding the inerrancy of the Bible – helps to categorize Protestant respondents. However, the inclusion of more questions of this nature would be beneficial to the scholarly community in order to better understand and identify the “God Gap.”

Thus, we proposed questions regarding the end-time beliefs of its respondents to be included in the 2006 NEST Pilot. While these questions do not explicitly measure Christian eschatology, we think it can adequately tap into those beliefs. Specifically, the following two questions were presented to respondents:

Mod29_1 - When you think about the possibility of your own death, how upsetting is that?

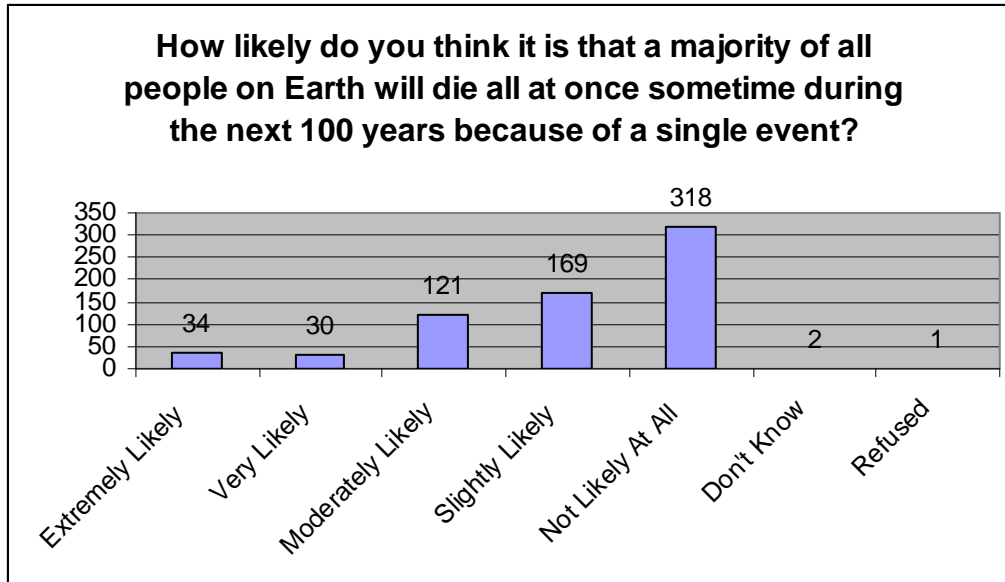
1. Extremely upsetting (9.02%)
2. Very upsetting (9.77%)
3. Moderately upsetting (23.91%)
4. Slightly upsetting (26.47%)
5. Not upsetting at all (30.23%)
6. Refused (0.60%)



N	Mean	Standard Deviation
665	3.595	1.262

Mod29_2 - How likely do you think it is that a majority of all people on Earth will die all at once sometime during the next 100 years because of a single event?

1. Extremely likely (4.96%)
2. Very likely (4.51%)
3. Moderately likely (18.05%)
4. Slightly likely (24.96%)
5. Not likely at all (47.07%)
6. Don't know (0.30%)
7. Refused (0.15%)



N	Mean	Standard Deviation
665	4.051	1.133

Correlations between Eschatology Items and Religious and Social-Political Attitudes, 2006 ANES Pilot Study

	Possibility of Death (Upsetting)	Likelihood of Rapture (Likely)	Saliency of Religion (Guidance)	Frequency of Prayer (Often)	Bible Belief (True)	Church Attendance (Often)	Importance of Belief that Jesus is Son of God (Important)	7-point Party ID (Republican)	7-point Ideology (Conservative)	Environmental Belief (Protect)	Gay Rights Attitude (Support)	Abortion Attitude (Support)
Possibility of Death (Upsetting)	1.0000											
Likelihood of Rapture (Likely)	-0.0004	1.0000										
Saliency of Religion (Guidance)	-0.1769	0.1898	1.0000									
Frequency of Prayer (Often)	<i>-0.1229</i>	<i>0.1439</i>	0.7077	1.0000								
Bible Belief (True)	<u>-0.1007</u>	0.1910	0.5058	0.5158	1.0000							
Church Attendance (Often)	<i>-0.1615</i>	0.0123	0.5059	0.4539	0.3401	1.0000						
Importance of Belief that Jesus is Son of God (Important)	-0.0646	0.0373	0.4065	0.3765	0.3430	0.3404	1.0000					
7-point Party ID (Republican)	-0.0058	-0.0352	0.1212	0.1380	0.1828	0.0901	<u>0.1111</u>	1.0000				
7-point Ideology (Conservative)	<u>-0.1141</u>	0.0483	0.2716	0.2659	0.3581	0.2233	0.2379	0.6322	1.0000			
Environmental Belief (Protect)	-0.0208	0.0148	0.0822	0.0882	-0.0167	0.0115	0.0291	-0.1018	<u>-0.1111</u>	1.0000		
Gay Rights Attitude (Support)	0.0664	0.0128	-0.2262	-0.1895	-0.3110	-0.1974	-0.1898	-0.2884	-0.2980	0.0091	1.0000	
Abortion Attitude (Support)	0.0140	-0.1684	-0.4243	-0.4106	-0.4807	-0.3950	-0.3539	-0.2527	-0.3681	0.0320	0.3144	1.0000

Notes: Entries are Pearson's r correlations. Bold font indicates statistically significant correlation at .001 level, italics indicates significance at .01 level, and underline indicates significance at .05 level. Data for items on salience of religion, prayer, views of the Bible, church attendance, party ID, ideology, gay rights, and abortion attitudes are from 2004 ANES. Higher values indicate positions in parentheses.