

Pastor Views on the End Times

Survey of Protestant Pastors

Methodology

- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted January 8-22, 2016
- ❑ These questions were sponsored by Charisma Media
- ❑ The calling list was a random sample stratified by church size drawn from a list of all Protestant churches
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

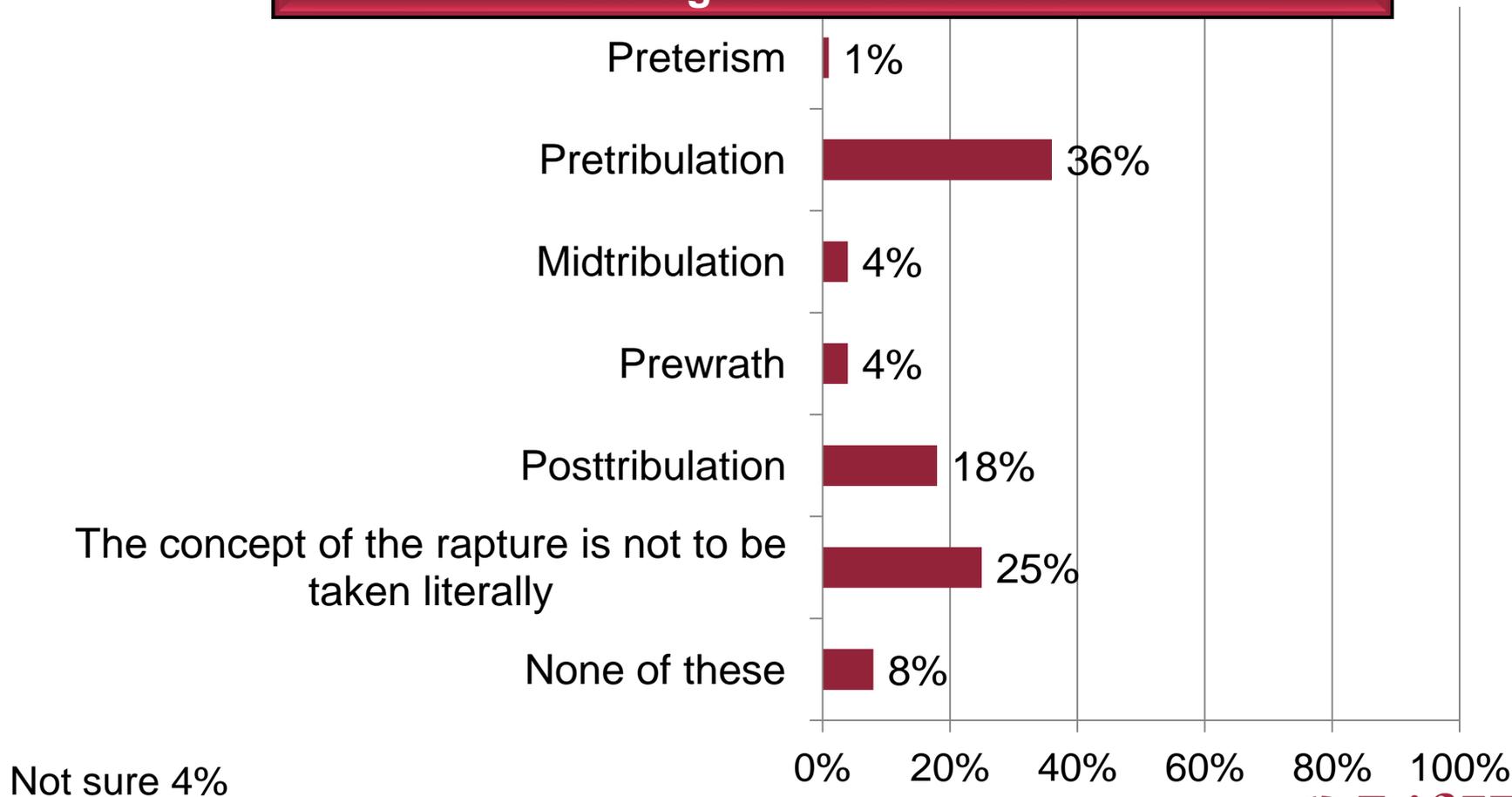
“Which one of the following statements best describes your views on when the biblical rapture will occur?”

Answer Options

- ❑ The rapture has already occurred (a view associated with Preterism)
- ❑ Christians will be taken up **before** the tribulation period that precedes the Second Coming (often called the pre-Trib view)
- ❑ Christians will be taken up **in the middle** of the tribulation period that precedes the Second Coming (often called the mid-Trib view)
- ❑ Christians will be taken up **before the great wrath of God is poured out** late in the tribulation period that precedes the Second Coming (often called the pre-wrath view)
- ❑ The rapture and the Second Coming are describing events that will unfold simultaneously or close together at the end of the tribulation (often called the post-Trib view)
- ❑ The concept of the rapture is not to be taken literally
- ❑ None of these
- ❑ Not sure

36% of pastors believe in a Pretribulation rapture

Among Protestant Pastors



Not sure 4%

Full text for the options read are on previous slide

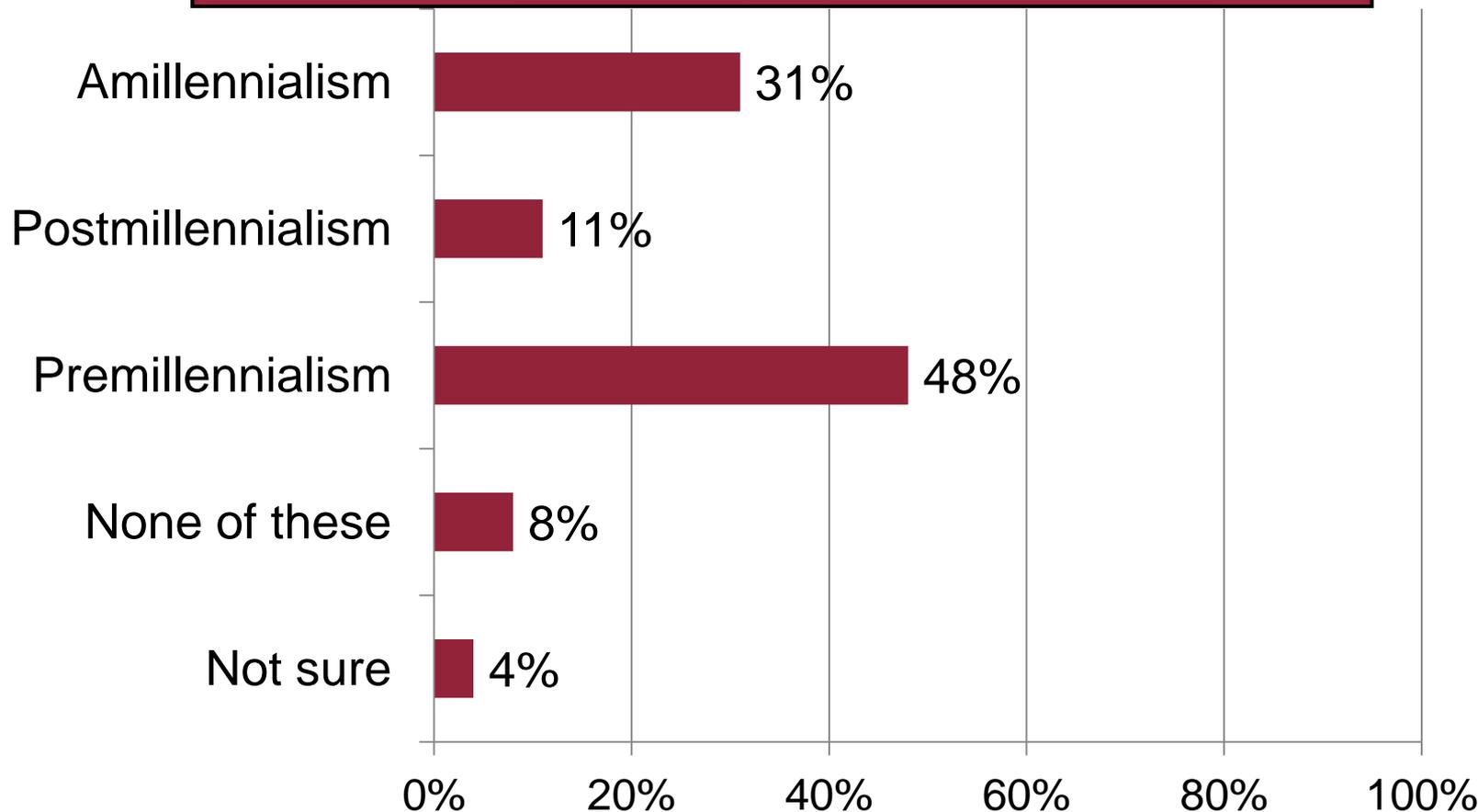
“Which one of the following statements best fits your views on the millennium described in Revelation 20? The chapter says that Christ shall reign ‘a thousand years.’”

Answer Options

- ❑ There is no literal millennium, but Christ is currently reigning spiritually and in the hearts of Christians (often called amillennialism)
- ❑ The millennium is not a literal 1,000 years, but an era in which the world will gradually grow more Christian and just ending with Christ’s second coming (often called postmillennialism)
- ❑ The millennium will be a future literal 1,000-year period during which Jesus reigns on earth following Christ’s second coming (often called premillennialism)
- ❑ None of these
- ❑ Not sure

Nearly half of pastors espouse Premillennialism

Among Protestant Pastors



Full text for the options read are on previous slide

Q2: "Which one of the following statements best fits your views on the millennium described in Revelation 20? The chapter says that Christ shall reign 'a thousand years.'"

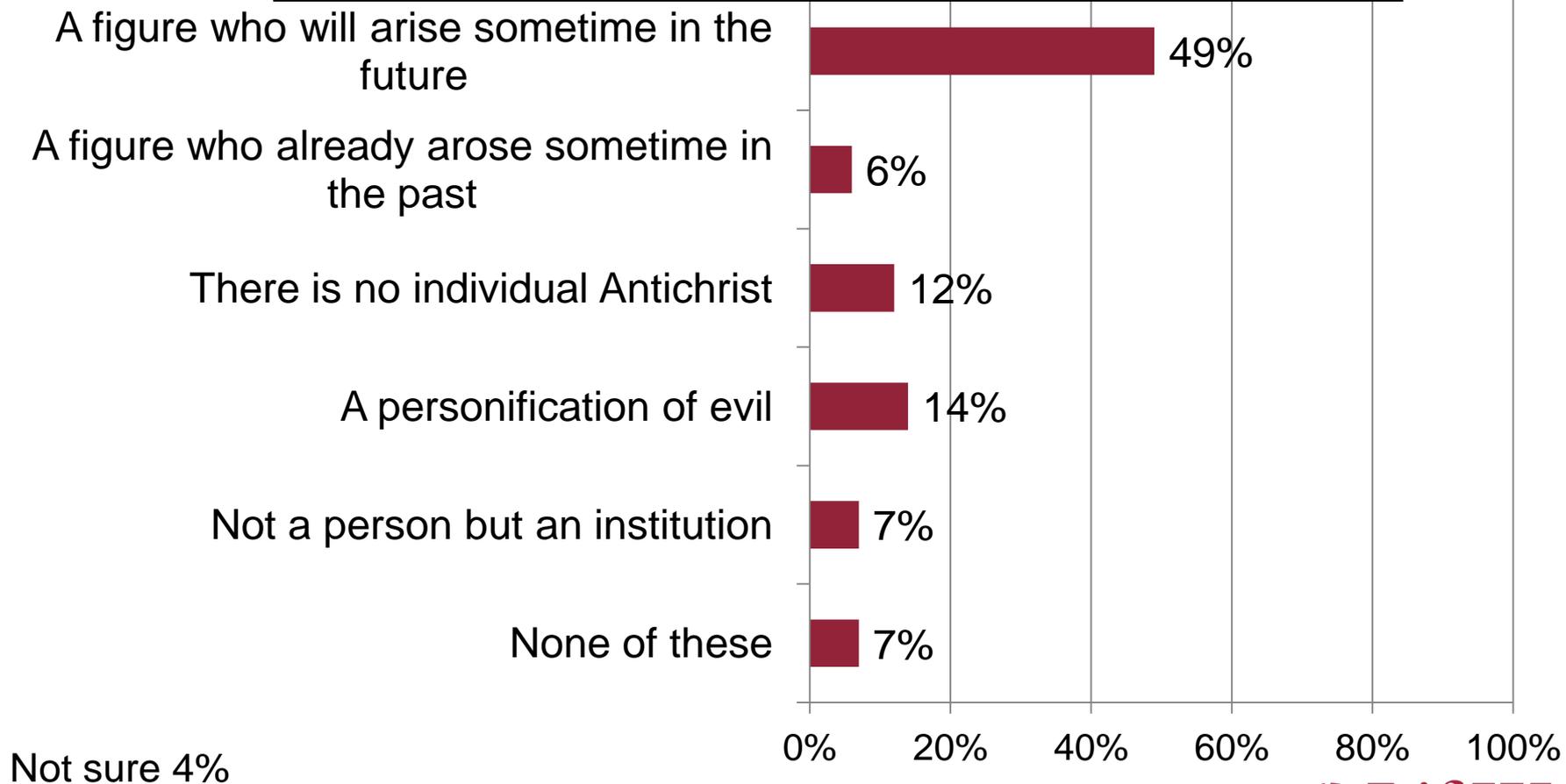
“Which one of the following statements best illustrates your views on the Antichrist?”

Answer Options

- He is a figure who will arise sometime in the future
- He is a figure who already arose sometime in the past
- There is no individual Antichrist
- He is just a personification of evil
- He is not a person but an institution
- None of these
- Not sure

Nearly half of pastors believe the Antichrist is a figure who will arise sometime in the future

Among Protestant Pastors



Full text for the options read are on previous slide

Q3: "Which one of the following statements best illustrates your views on the Antichrist?"

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among pastor's ethnicity, age, education level, and those self-identifying as Evangelical or Mainline.

Pastor's Ethnicity	Age	Education Level	Self-Identify
White	18-44	No College Degree	Evangelical
Other Ethnicities	45-54	Bachelor's	Mainline
	55-64	Master's (including M.Div)	
	65+	Doctorate (including Ph.D, D.min)	

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and average attendance.

Region	Denomination	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
Midwest	Lutheran	50-99
South	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/ Reformed	

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

“Which one of the following statements best describes your views on when the biblical rapture will occur?”

- White pastors (27%) are more likely to select “The concept of the rapture is not to be taken literally” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (18%)
- Those age 18-44 are the least likely to select “Pretribulation” (28%)
- Those age 18-44 (23%) and 45-54 (22%) are more likely to select “Posttribulation” than those 55-64 (16%) and 65+ (14%)
- Those with no college degree are the most likely to select “Pretribulation” (60%), while those with a Master’s are least likely (26%)
- Those with no college degree (5%) or a Bachelor’s degree (6%) are more likely to select “Midtribulation” than a Doctoral degree (1%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (8%) are more likely to select “Prewrath” than a Master’s (2%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (22%) are more likely to select “Posttribulation” than those with no college degree (12%) or a Bachelor’s (13%)

“Which one of the following statements best describes your views on when the biblical rapture will occur?” (continued)

- Those with a Master’s degree (33%) or a Doctoral degree (29%) are more likely to select “The concept of the rapture is not to be taken literally” than those with no college degree (6%) or a Bachelor’s (16%)
- Evangelicals (43%) are more likely to select “Pretribulation” than Mainlines (31%)
- Evangelicals (5%) are more likely to select “Prewrath” than Mainlines (2%)
- Evangelicals (21%) are more likely to select “Posttribulation” than Mainlines (15%)
- Mainlines (36%) are more likely to select “The concept of the rapture is not to be taken literally” than Evangelicals (17%)
- Pentecostals are the most likely to select “Pretribulation” (73%), followed by Baptists (61%)
- Lutherans are least likely to select “Pretribulation” (1%) and “Prewrath” (0%)

“Which one of the following statements best describes your views on when the biblical rapture will occur?” (continued)

- Pentecostals (9%) are more likely to select “Midtribulation” than Baptists (3%), Lutherans (2%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (2%)
- Baptist (21%) are more likely to select “Posttribulation” than Pentecostals (10%)
- Lutheran (60%), Methodists (48%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (49%) are more likely to select “The concept of the rapture is not to be taken literally” than Baptists (6%) and Pentecostals (<1%)
- Those in the South (40%) and West (38%) are more likely to select “Pretribulation” than those in the Midwest (28%)
- Those in the Midwest (6%) are more likely to select “Midtribulation” than those in the West (2%)
- Those in the West (6%) are more likely to select “Prewrath” than those in the South (3%)

“Which one of the following statements best fits your views on the millennium described in Revelation 20? The chapter says that Christ shall reign ‘a thousand years.’”

- Those age 18-44 (34%) and 55-64 (32%) are more likely to select “Amillennialism” than those 65+ (23%)
- Those age 18-44 (15%) are more likely to select “Postmillennialism” than those 65+ (8%)
- Those age 65+ (54%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than those 55-64 (44%)
- Those with a Master’s degree are the most likely to select “Amillennialism” (41%), while those with no college degree are least likely (9%)
- Those with no college degree (71%) or a Bachelor’s (63%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than those with a Master’s (36%) or a Doctoral degree (46%)
- Mainlines (38%) are more likely to select “Amillennialism” than Evangelicals (24%)
- Evangelicals (57%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than Mainlines (38%)

“Which one of the following statements best fits your views on the millennium described in Revelation 20? The chapter says that Christ shall reign ‘a thousand years.’” (continued)

- Those in the Midwest (37%) are more likely to select “Amillennialism” than those in the West (24%)
- Those in the West (52%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than those in the Midwest (42%)
- Lutherans are the most likely to select “Amillennialism” (71%), followed by Presbyterian/Reformed (52%), then Methodists (37%), then Baptists (13%), then Pentecostals (4%)
- Methodists (27%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (20%) are more likely to select “Postmillennialism” than Baptists (7%), Lutherans (8%), and Pentecostals (7%)
- Baptists (75%) and Pentecostals (84%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than Lutherans (5%), Methodists (21%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (14%)

“Which one of the following statements best fits your views on the millennium described in Revelation 20? The chapter says that Christ shall reign ‘a thousand years.’” (continued)

- Those with attendance of 50-99 (35%) and 250+ (39%) are more likely to select “Amillennialism” than those 0-49 (25%) and 100-249 (26%)
- Those with attendance of 0-49 (14%) and 50-99 (11%) are more likely to select “Postmillennialism” than those 250+ (5%)
- Those with attendance of 100-249 (51%) are more likely to select “Premillennialism” than those 50-99 (43%)

“Which one of the following statements bests illustrates your views on the Antichrist?”

- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (10%) are more likely to select “He is a figure that already arose sometime in the past” than White pastors (6%)
- Those age 65+ (9%) are more likely to select “He is a figure that already arose sometime in the past” than those 45-54 (4%)
- Those age 45-54 (18%) and 55-64 (16%) are more likely to select “He is just a personification of evil” than those 65+ (9%)
- Those with no college degree (68%) or a Bachelor’s degree (63%) are more likely to select “He is a figure who will arise sometime in the future” than those with a Master’s (39%) or a Doctoral degree (49%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (18%) or a Doctoral degree (16%) are more likely to select “He is just a personification of evil” than those with no college degree (5%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (18%) are more likely to select “He is just a personification of evil” than those with a Bachelor’s (11%)

“Which one of the following statements best illustrates your views on the Antichrist?”

(continued)

- Those with a Master’s degree (10%) are more likely to select “He is not a person but an institution” than those with no college degree (3%) or a Bachelor’s (3%)
- Evangelicals (60%) are more likely to select “He is a figure who will arise sometime in the future” than Mainlines (38%)
- Mainlines (15%) are more likely to select “There is no individual Antichrist” than Evangelicals (8%)
- Mainlines (19%) are more likely to select “He is just a personification of evil” than Evangelicals (10%)
- Mainlines (9%) are more likely to select “He is not a person but an institution” than Evangelicals (6%)
- Those in the South (51%) and West (53%) are more likely to select “He is a figure who will arise sometime in the future” than those in the Midwest (43%)

“Which one of the following statements best illustrates your views on the Antichrist?”

(continued)

- Those in the Northeast (11%) are more likely to select “He is a figure that already arose sometime in the past” than those in the South (6%) and West (5%)
- Those in the Midwest (10%) are more likely to select “He is not a person but an institution” than those in the South (6%)
- Baptists (75%) and Pentecostals (83%) are more likely to select “He is a figure who will arise sometime in the future” than Lutherans (7%), Methodists (29%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (22%)
- Lutherans (16%), Methodists (16%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (18%) are more likely to select “There is no individual Antichrist” than Baptists (4%) and Pentecostals (4%)
- Lutherans (29%), Methodists (28%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (31%) are more likely to select “He is just a personification of evil” than Baptists (3%) and Pentecostals (2%)

“Which one of the following statements best illustrates your views on the Antichrist?”

(continued)

- Lutherans are the most likely to select “He is not a person but an institution” (25%)
- Those with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “He is a figure who already arose sometime in the past” (11%)

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