

According to a [Gallup](#) study, religion plays a large role in Americans' Support for Israelis. The research group concluded that *“there are several possible reasons for the relationship between religiousness and support for Israelis. Many explanations focus on roles that Israel and Israelis play in the Bible, the centrality of the saga of the Israelites in the Old Testament, and the promises God made in the Old Testament to the ancient prophets that he would create a promised land for them. Some evangelical Christians also connect Israel to their views of the second coming of Christ at Armageddon.”*

While Christians are urged to follow their religious beliefs, it is also imperative that Christians understand that Israel faces daily threats from Hamas and surrounding nations that do not recognize its right to exist and has sought its destruction from the day it was established in 1948 for unjustifiable reasons. It is not a “peace process” as termed, but a propagandist process that seeks Israel’s eradication based on the Charters of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and Fatah.

The article below by Middle East Scholar Dr. Daniel Pipes analyses the Gallup findings on Church attendance and Israel

How Church Attendance Affects American Attitudes toward Israel

<http://www.danielpipes.org/14692/american-churches-israel>

by Daniel Pipes

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What role does religion play in American attitudes towards Israel? An [analysis by Frank Newport](#), the editor-in-chief of Gallup Inc., reviews 14 annual Gallup polls from 2001 to 2014 in which respondents answer the same question, "In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?" The numbers offer insights different from what one might expect.

The study starts with two basic facts: First, looking at the whole sample of about 14,000 American adults, 59 percent answer that they have more sympathy for Israelis and 16 percent say they have more sympathy for Palestinians, a ratio of almost 4-to-1. Second, Newport finds that "Religious Americans are significantly more likely than less religious Americans to be sympathetic to the Israelis," confirming what common sense already tells us.

That said, his numbers contain several noteworthy subtleties:

- A near-linear relationship exists between church attendance and outlook: 66 percent of weekly or almost-weekly church goers favor Israel, as do 58 percent of monthly and seldom church-goers and 46 percent of never church-goers. Conversely, sympathy toward the Palestinians is also near-linear: 13 percent, 16 percent, and 23 percent, respectively.
- In both cases, any church attendance at all makes Christians more alike to each other vs. those who never attend, a difference that has somewhat widened recently.

Americans' Sympathies in Mideast Situation, by Church Attendance

	Israelis	Palestinians	Both/Neither/ No Opinion
	%	%	%
Weekly/Almost weekly	66	13	21
Monthly/Seldom	58	16	26
Never	46	23	31

Aggregated sample, 2001-2014

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- When one looks at religious groups, Jews, Mormons, and non-Catholic Christians are the most pro-Israel; Catholics match the national average; other religious groups and the non-religious are the least pro-Israel.

Americans' Sympathies in Mideast Situation, by Religious Identification

	Israelis	Palestinians	Both/Neither/ No Opinion
	%	%	%
Jewish	93	2	5
Mormon	79	11	10
Protestant/Other Christian	66	14	20
Catholics	59	17	24
Other	54	18	28
No religious identity	45	25	30

Aggregated sample, 2001-2014

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- Political views and religiosity both influence Americans' view – but as independent variables.
- Political views matter more than religiosity: "nonreligious Republicans are more likely to sympathize with Israelis than highly religious Democrats."
- Church attendance has more of an impact on Republican views than on Democratic ones.
- Israel brings together two very politically dissimilar groups, church-attending Christian Republicans and Jewish Democrats.

Some reflections on these figures:

(1) Although religiosity helps explain the difference between the United States and Europe, politics has more importance: that even irreligious Americans favor Israel 2-to-1 marks them as very different from their European counterparts.

(2) Given the prominence of Jewish anti-Zionists in the academy, the media, and in Hollywood, the 93-to-2 Jewish support for Israel comes as a surprise, suggesting that the most accomplished and articulate

Jews tend to be disproportionately hostile to Israel. Perhaps this is their way of fitting into the leftist institutions where they work and hope to succeed?

(3) One wishes the "Protestant" category provided further details on the various denominations. How much do the mainline churches differ from the evangelical ones? Do the adherents of anti-Israel churches follow their leadership in this regard? Are there important changes over time? Gallup should inform us about this in the future.

(4) Muslims are lumped in with other non-Christians but have a unique profile. In Canada, whose Muslim population [differs substantially](#) from the American one, pro-Israel Muslims number [about 20 percent](#). I estimate that pro-Israel American Muslims number half that percentage, or less. Also of note: religiosity among Muslims has the opposite influence than among Christians, making them less pro-Israel.

In conclusion, Israel benefits from the fact that Americans remain in large part a religious people. But declining religiosity bodes ill for the Jewish state.

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