
A Survey of British Christian Attitudes Towards the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Faith, Politics, and Perception

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Fresh Perspectives on
ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH
. Middle East Conflict & Antisemitism

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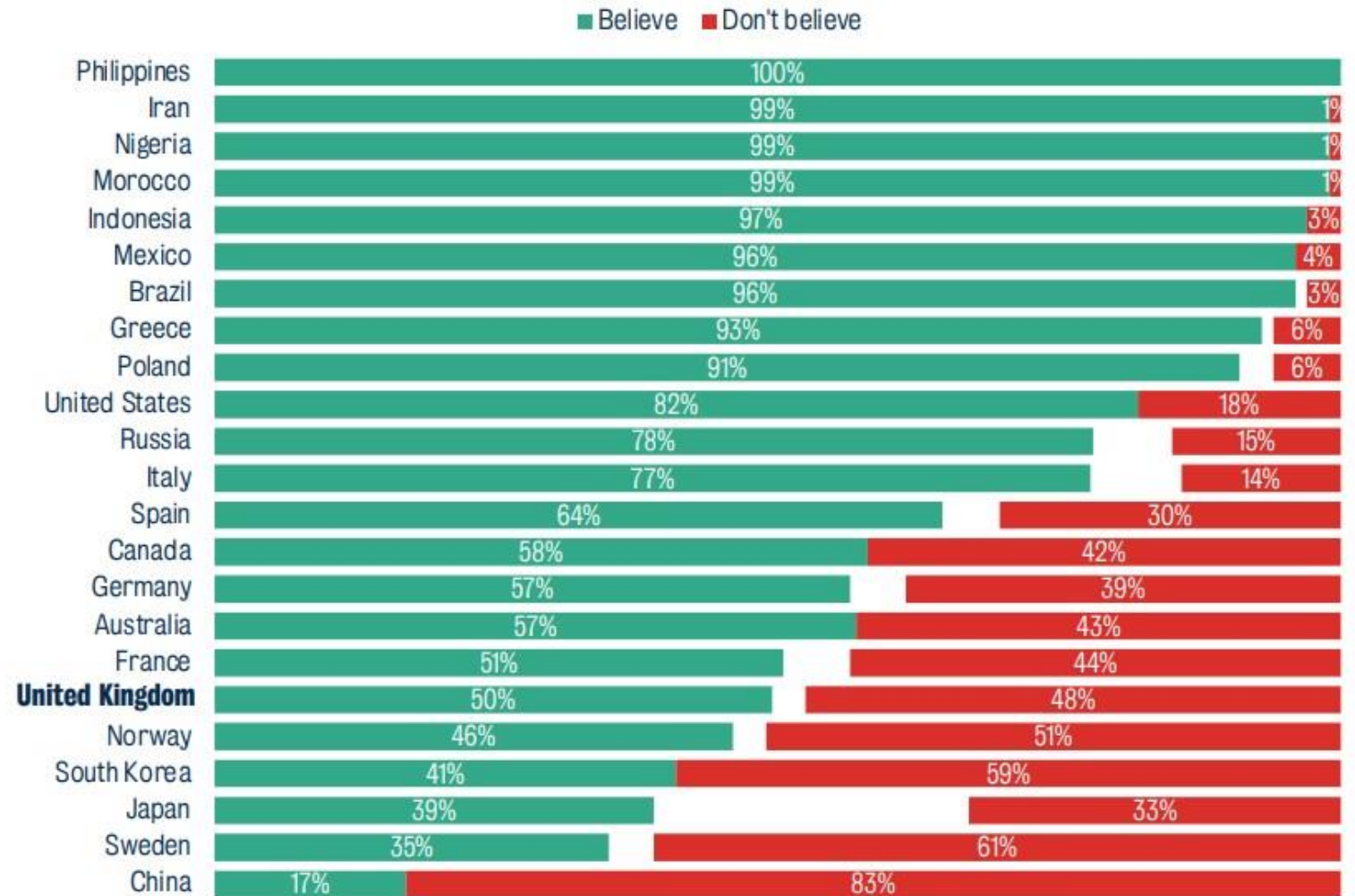
Christianity in the United Kingdom: Background data

- According to the 2021 census (England and Wales), 46.2% identify as Christians, while 37.2% identify as of no religion.
 - In this survey, we aimed to capture the Christian opinion on Jews, Israel, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
 - The data will be compared with a similar survey conducted in the US among American Christians in March 2024.
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Only five nations are less likely than the UK to say they believe in God

China (17%), Sweden (35%), Japan (39%), South Korea (41%) and Norway (46%) are the only countries less likely than the UK (50%) to say they believe in God.

Which, if any, of the following do you believe in? **God**



The survey

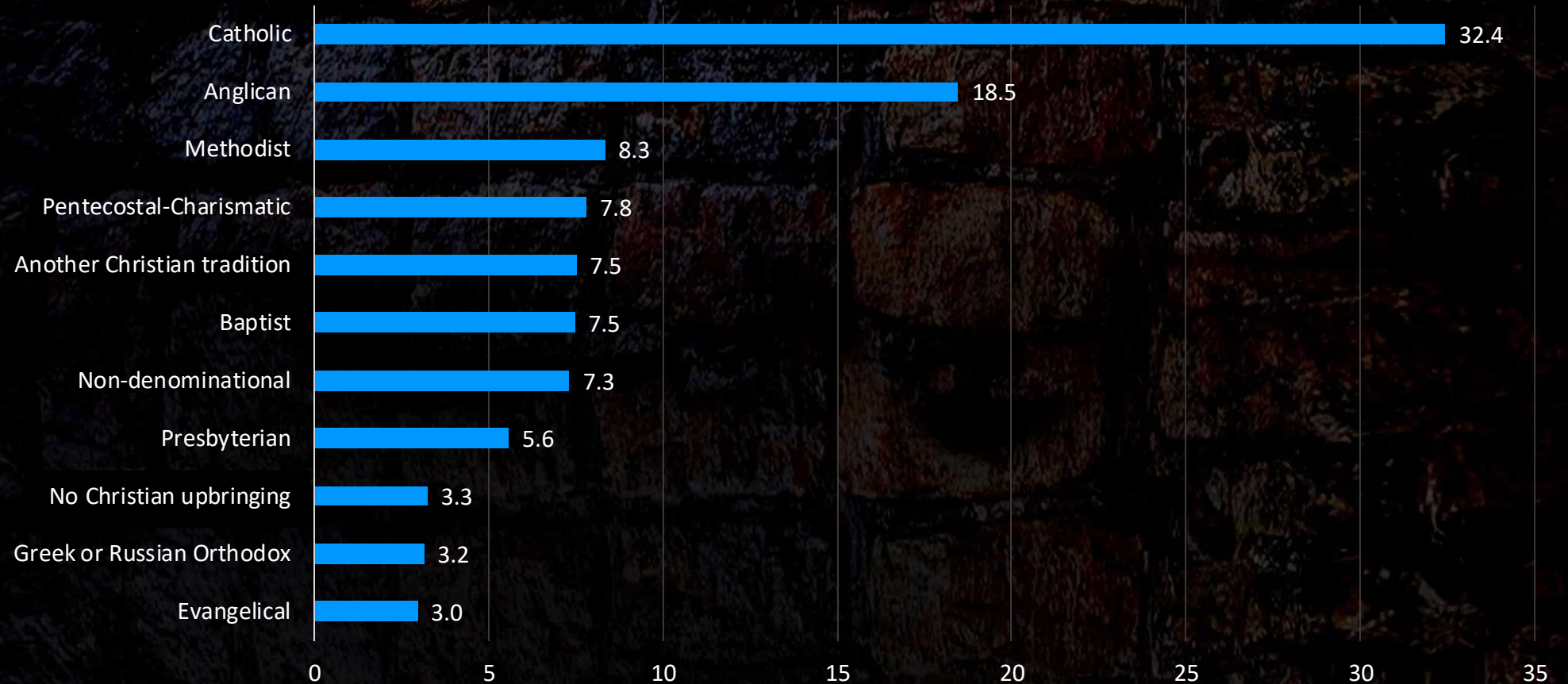
- From December 9 to 20, 2024, the Christian Attitudes Survey was conducted in the United Kingdom, with a total of 2,062 respondents interviewed. The survey targeted Christian adults online, using a non-probability sample provided by Cint Group (formerly Lucid Holdings, LLC).
 - Samples were collected from approximately 15 panels, with natural falls in various demographics such as age, gender, region, race/ethnicity, income, education, and marital status. These demographics were compared against the 2021 Census data for both countries.
 - The sample provides a 95% confidence level, ensuring that the sampling errors do not exceed $\pm 3\%$. However, margins may vary for some groups.
 - The study was administered by Savanta Group.
-

UK Sample	US Sample
December 9-20, 2024	March 8-14, 2024
2,062 respondents	2,027 respondents
MOE ±3.0%	MOE ±2.17%
White 78.8%, Black 15.1%, Asian 2.4%, Mixed race 3.0%, Other 0.6%	White 66.5%, Black 13.1%, Hispanic 12.3%, Native American 3.4%, Mixed race 2.3%, Asian 1.8%, Other 0.8%
Less than HS 22.7%; HS graduate 15.2%; some college 12.3%; tech/vocational degree 4.6%; bachelor's degree 32.8%; graduate degree 12.4%	Less than HS 2.4%; HS graduate 23.9%; some college 28.1%; tech/vocational degree 6.6%; bachelor's degree 28.7%; graduate degree 10.4%
Mean household income ~ £30,000	Mean household income ~ \$62,000
56.8% are married	42.9% are married
52.8% are female	54.8% are female
Median age is 44 years old	Median age is 49 years old

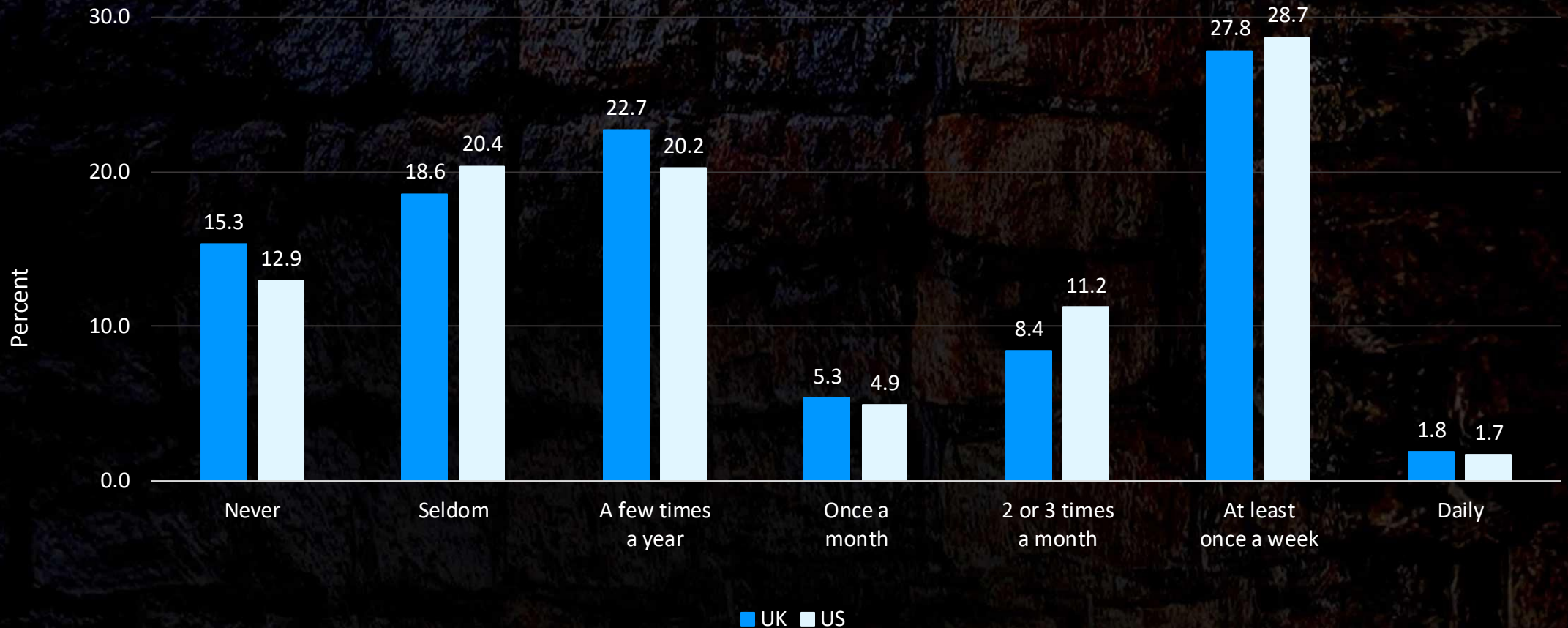
Christianity in the United Kingdom

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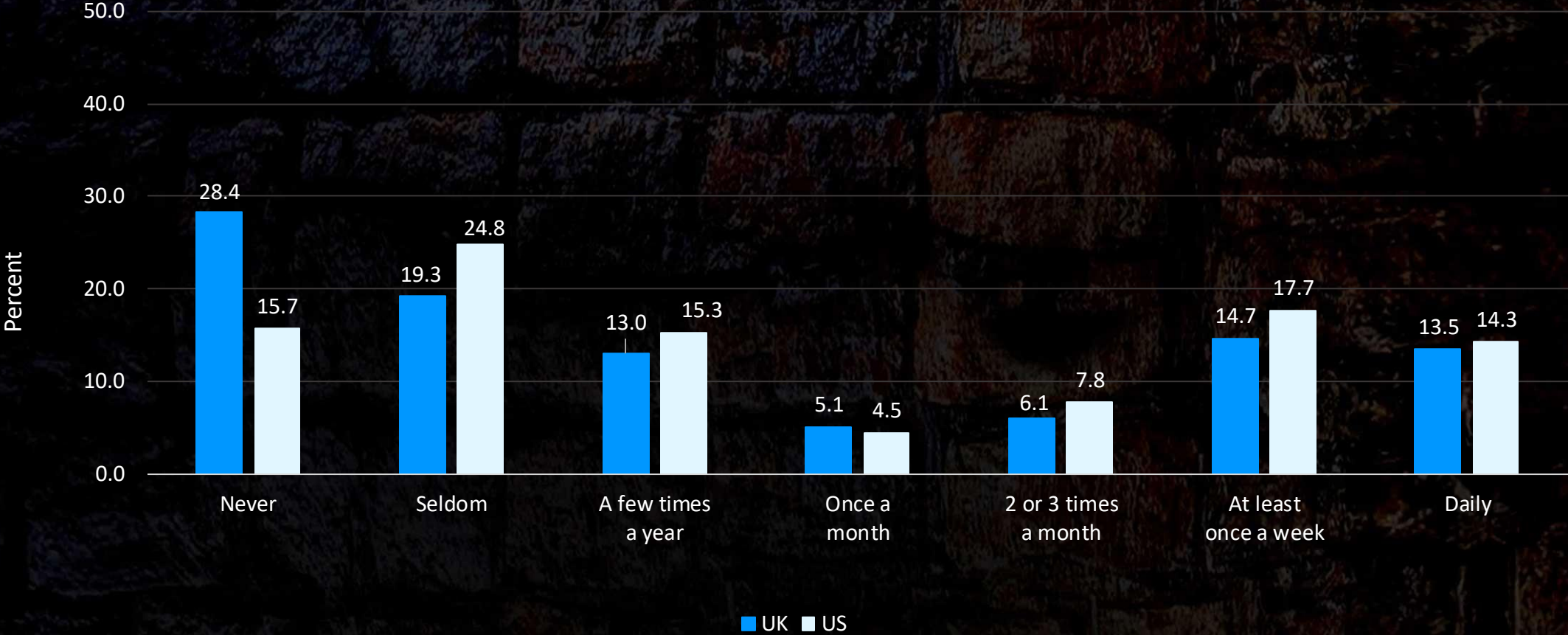
Were you raised Christian, and in which denomination? Please pick all that apply.



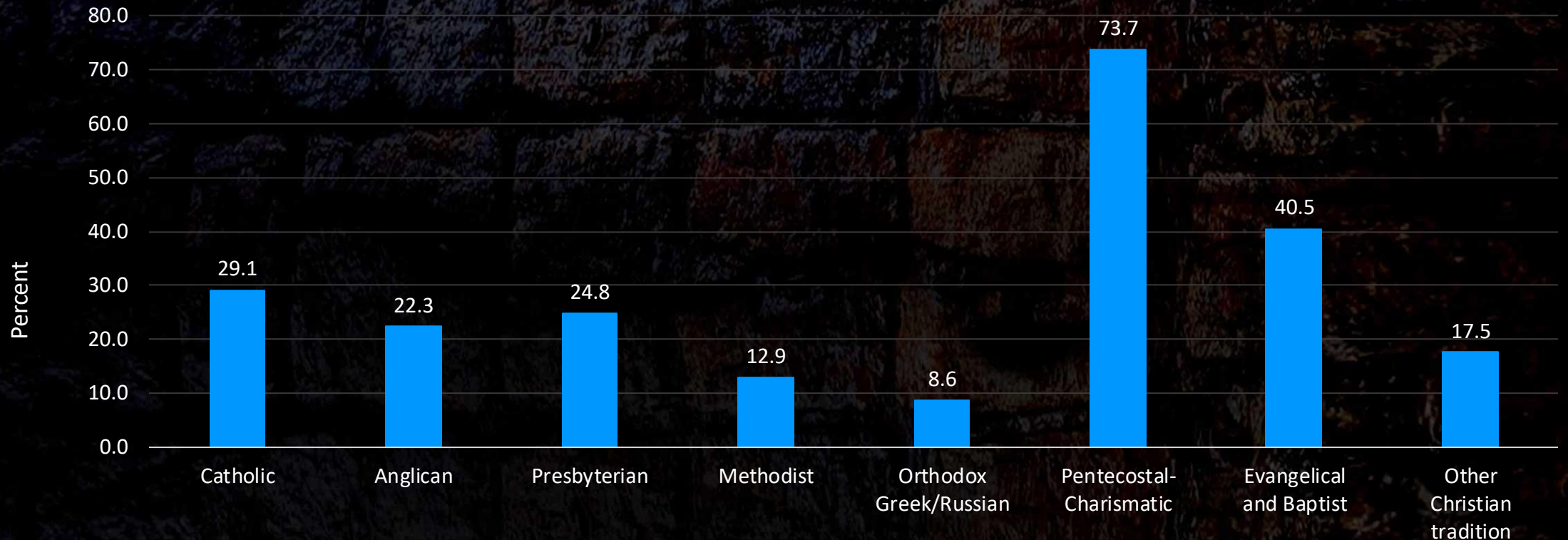
Aside from weddings and funerals, on average, how often did you attend church or religious services?



How often do you read the Bible?

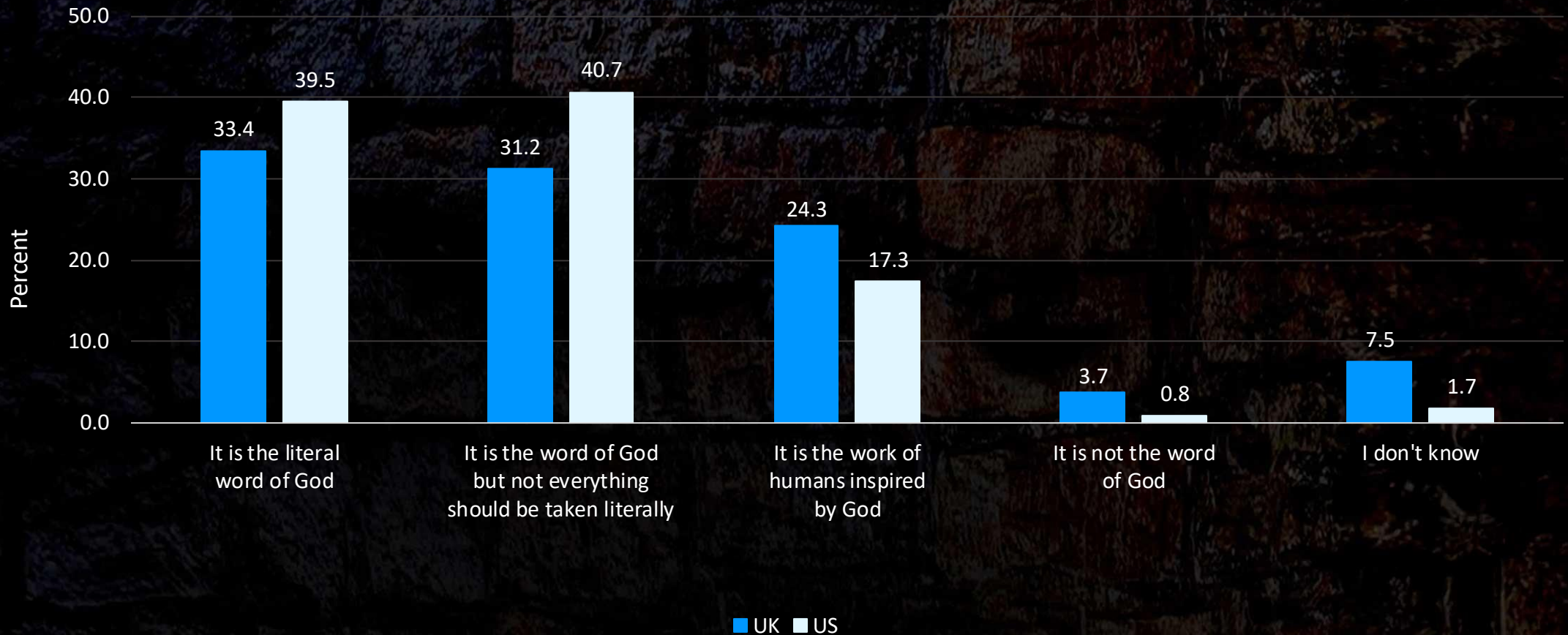


How often do you read the Bible? (UK Denominations)

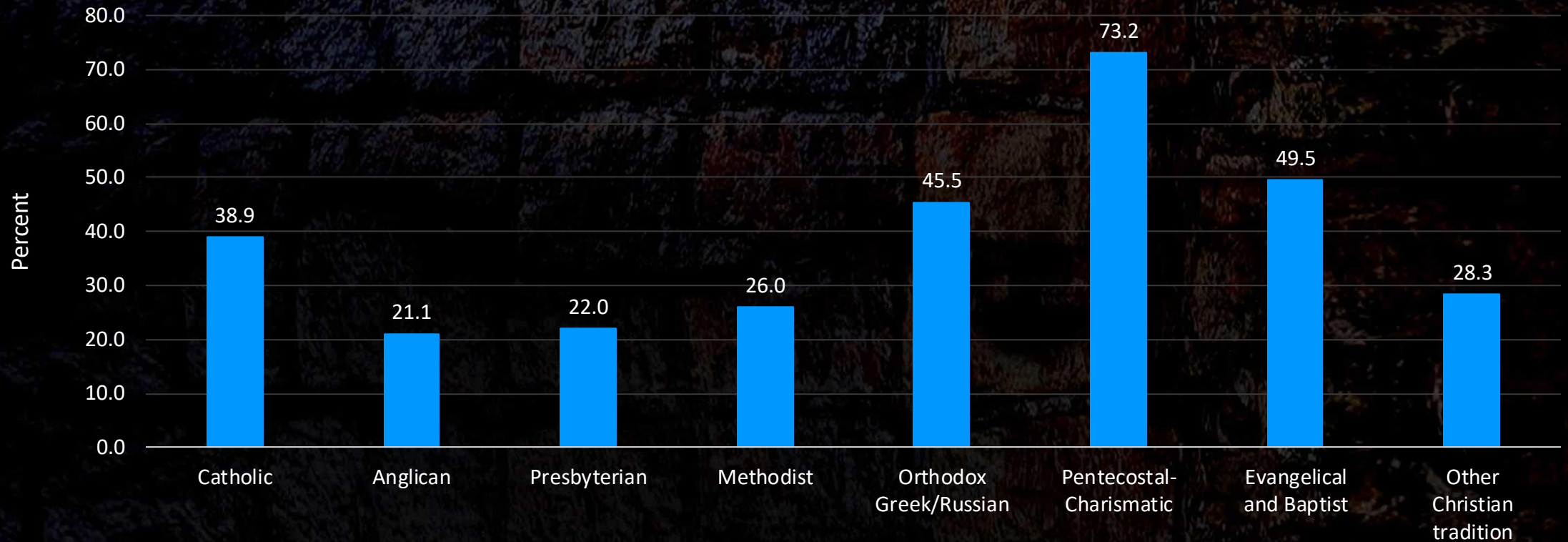


Note: Respondents who selected that they read the Bible "at least once a week" or "daily."

What do you think about the Bible?

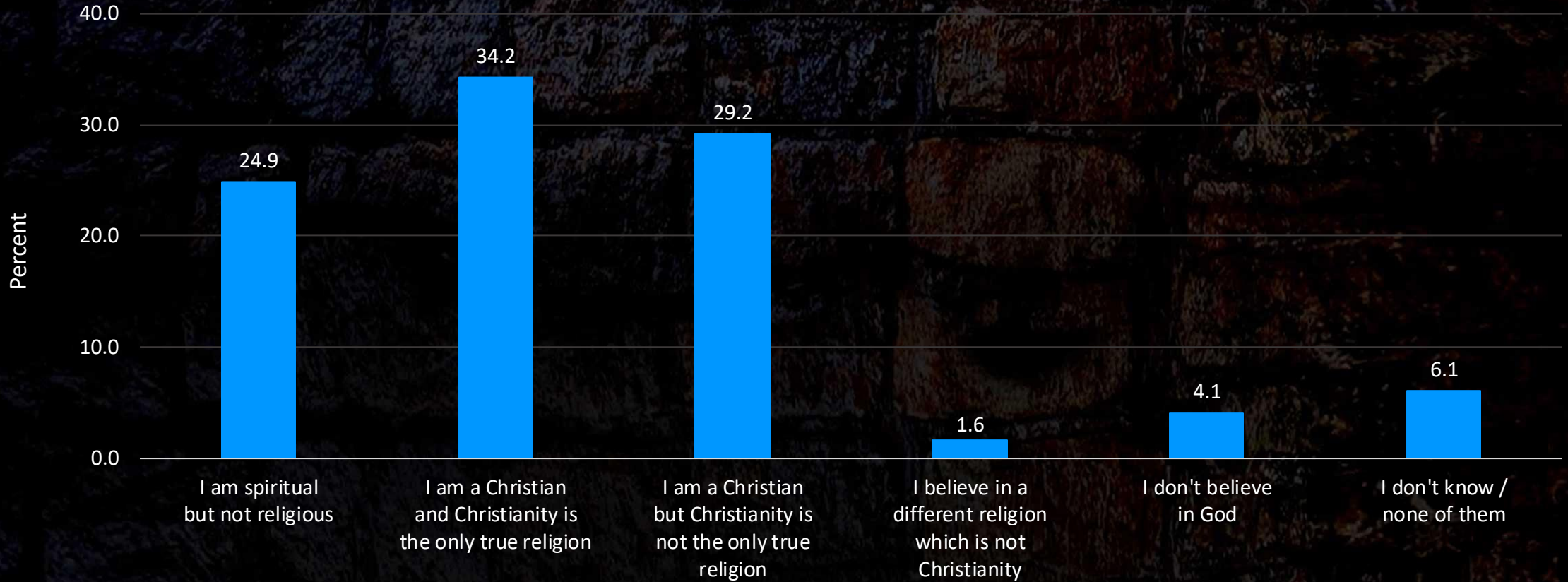


The Bible is the literal word of God (by denomination in the UK)

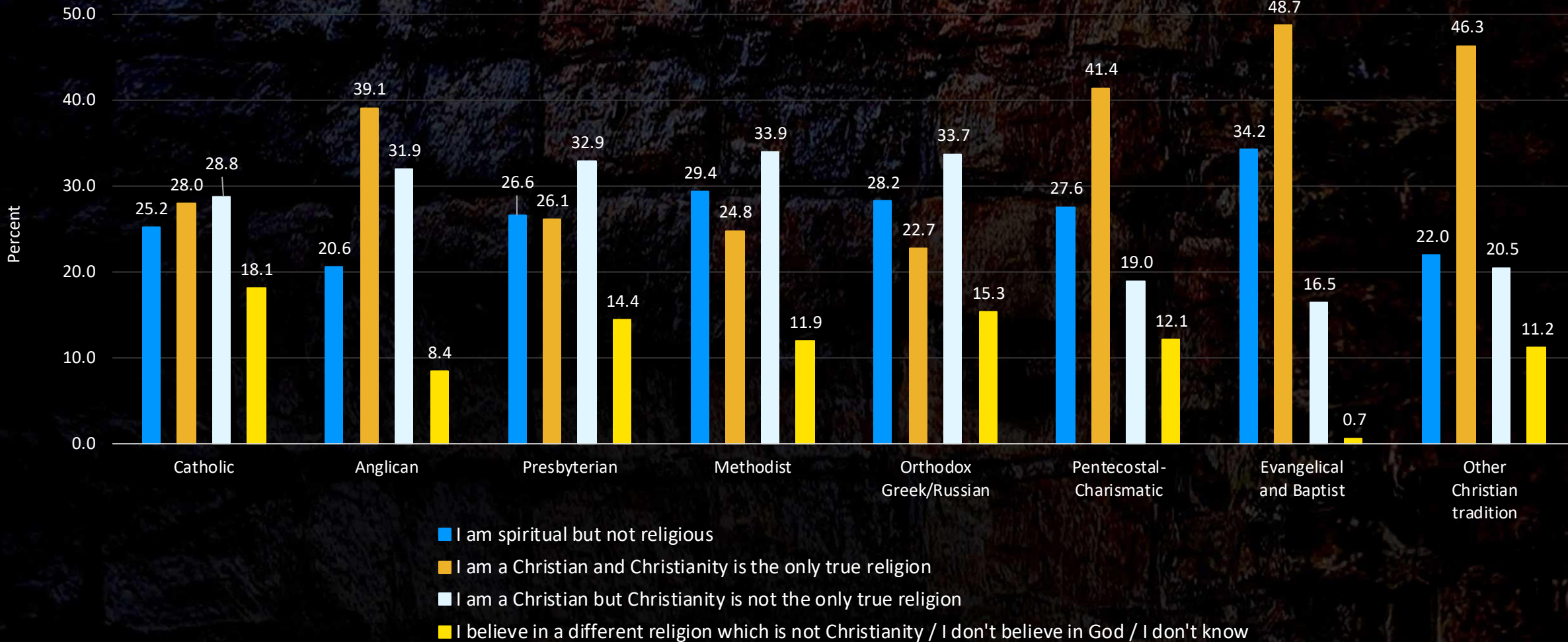


Note: Respondents who selected that the Bible is "the literal word of God" response option.

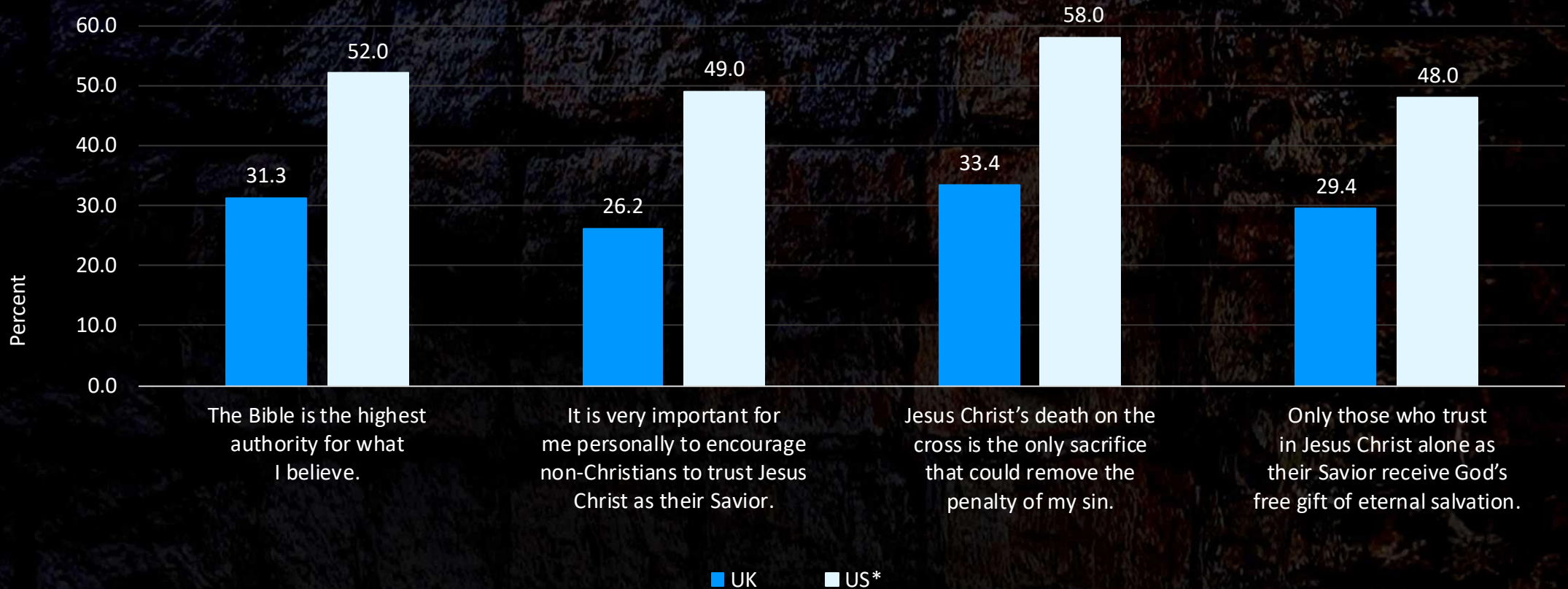
Spirituality (UK only)



Spirituality in the UK (by Denomination)



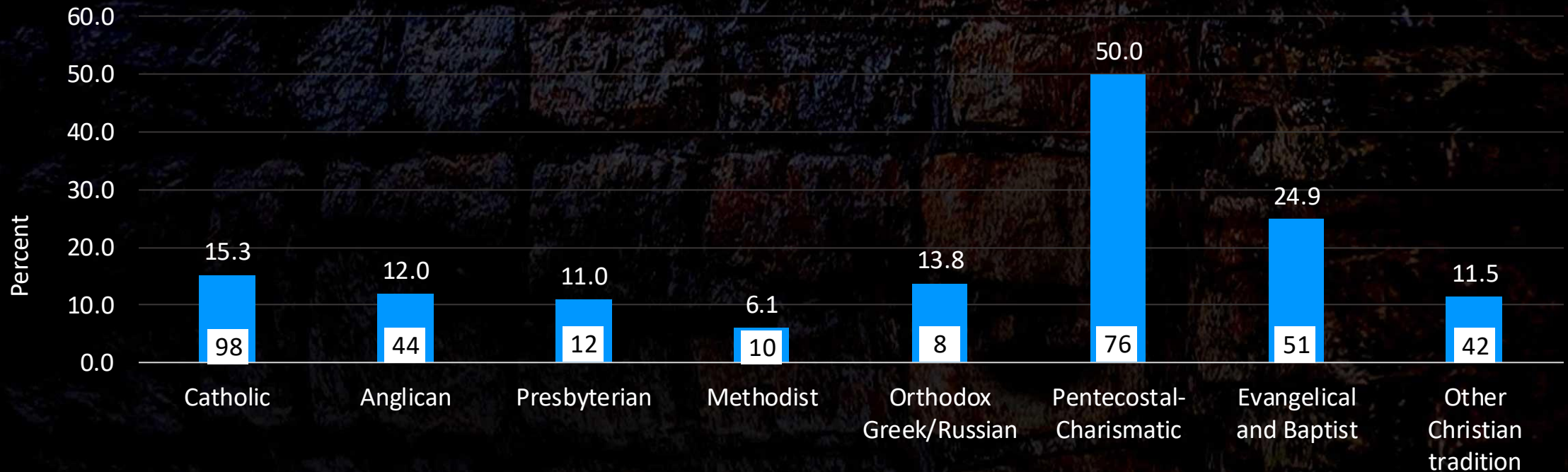
NAE Evangelical definition "Strongly agree" responses by country



Note: US data comes from Lifeway Research 2015 study.

NAE Evangelical definition

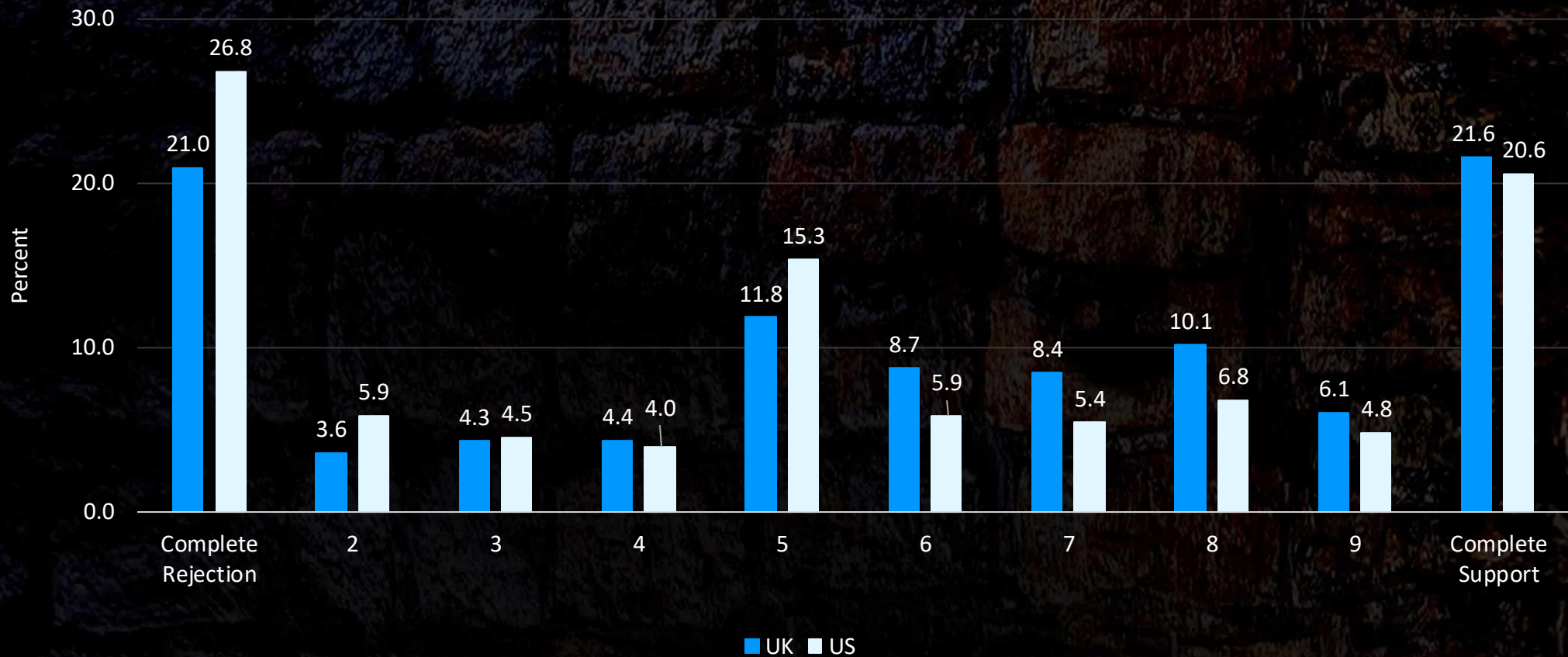
UK respondents (by denomination) who "strongly agree" to all four NAE statements



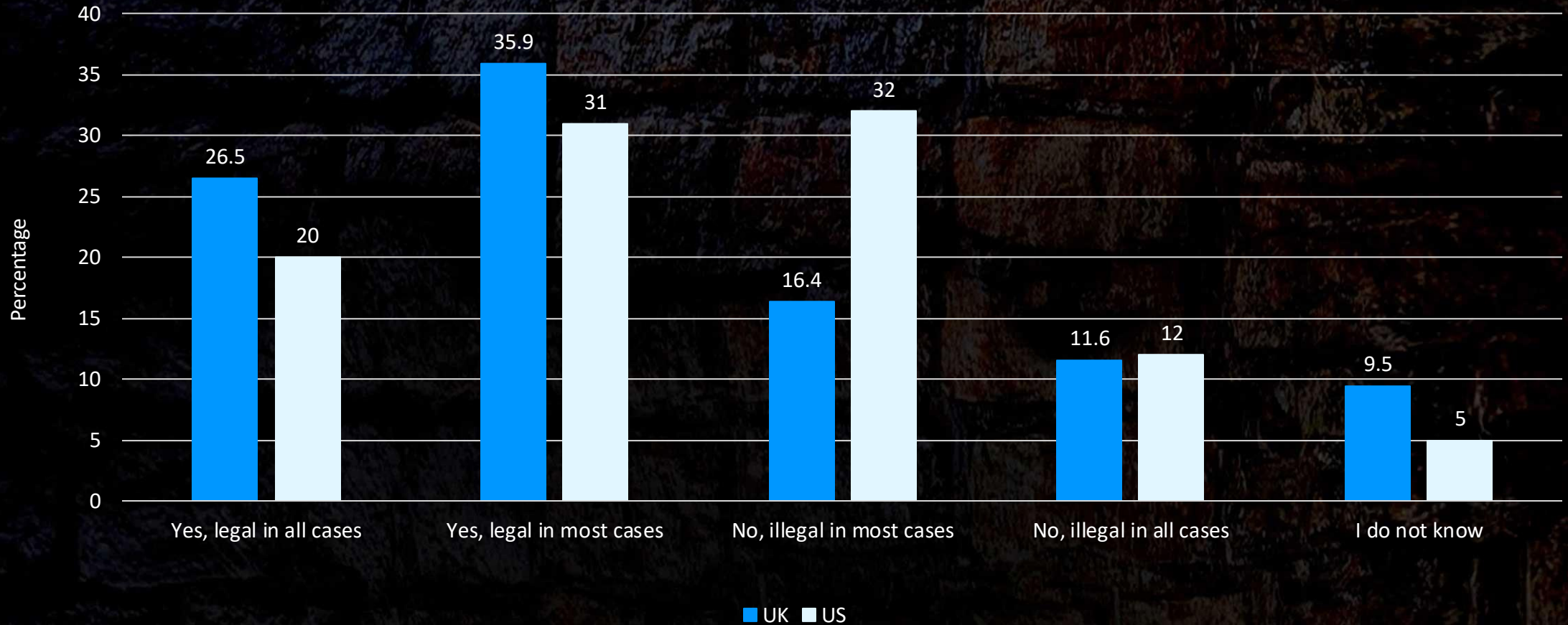
Note: Respondents had to "strongly agree" to all of the four statements below (N = 341 out of 2,062 UK respondents). Numbers inside base reflect number of respondents; numbers above column reflect percentage of respondents in the specific denomination who strongly agreed to all four statements.

- Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.
- Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
- It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how supportive are you of you of same-sex marriage?



Do you think abortion should be legal?



Views of Jews

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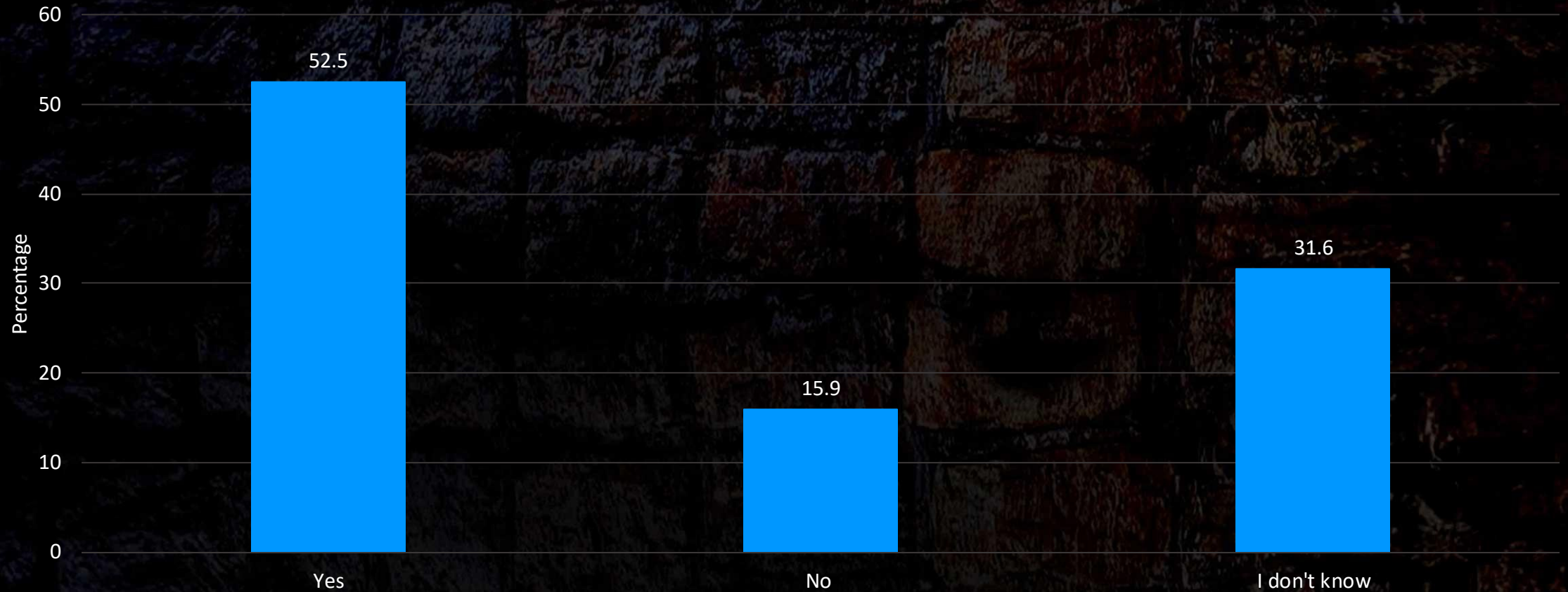
What is your opinion of Jews?



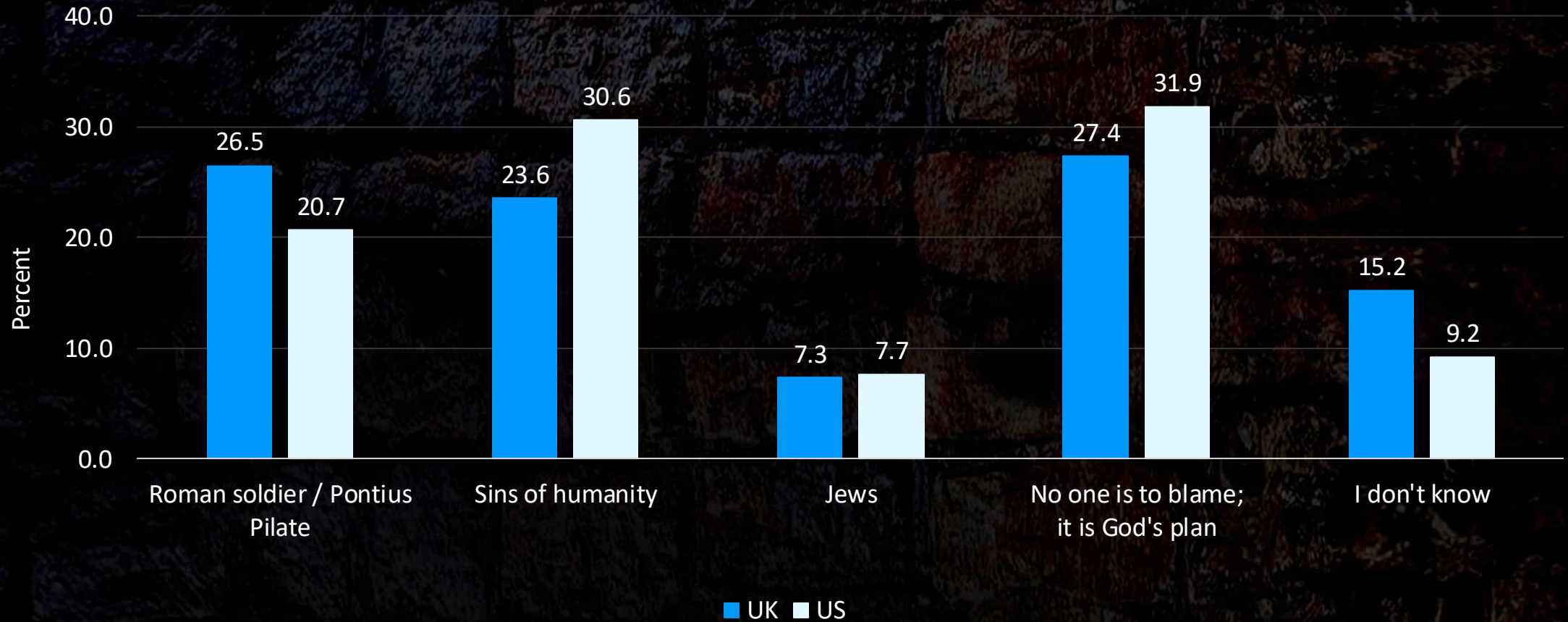
Do you believe the Jewish people today have the right to the land of Israel by virtue of the covenant God made with Abraham?



Do you believe that Jesus was Jewish? (UK)



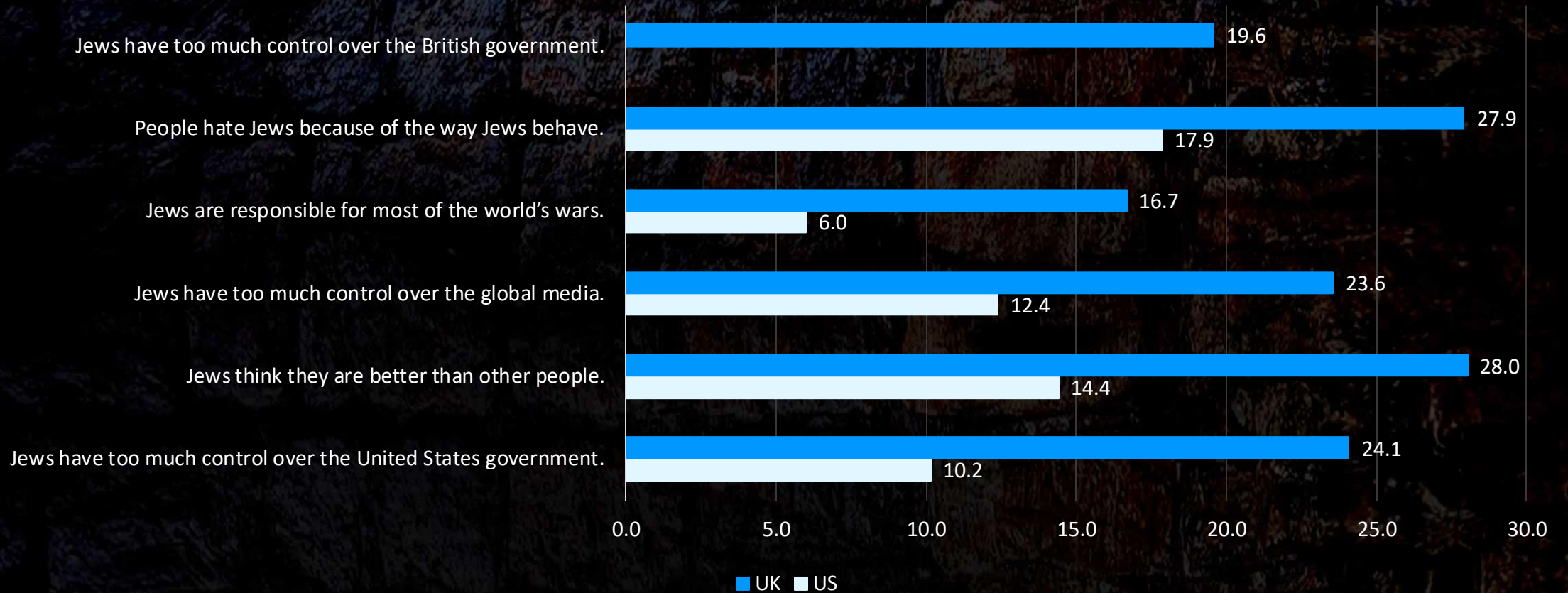
Who bears the blame for the crucifixion of Jesus?



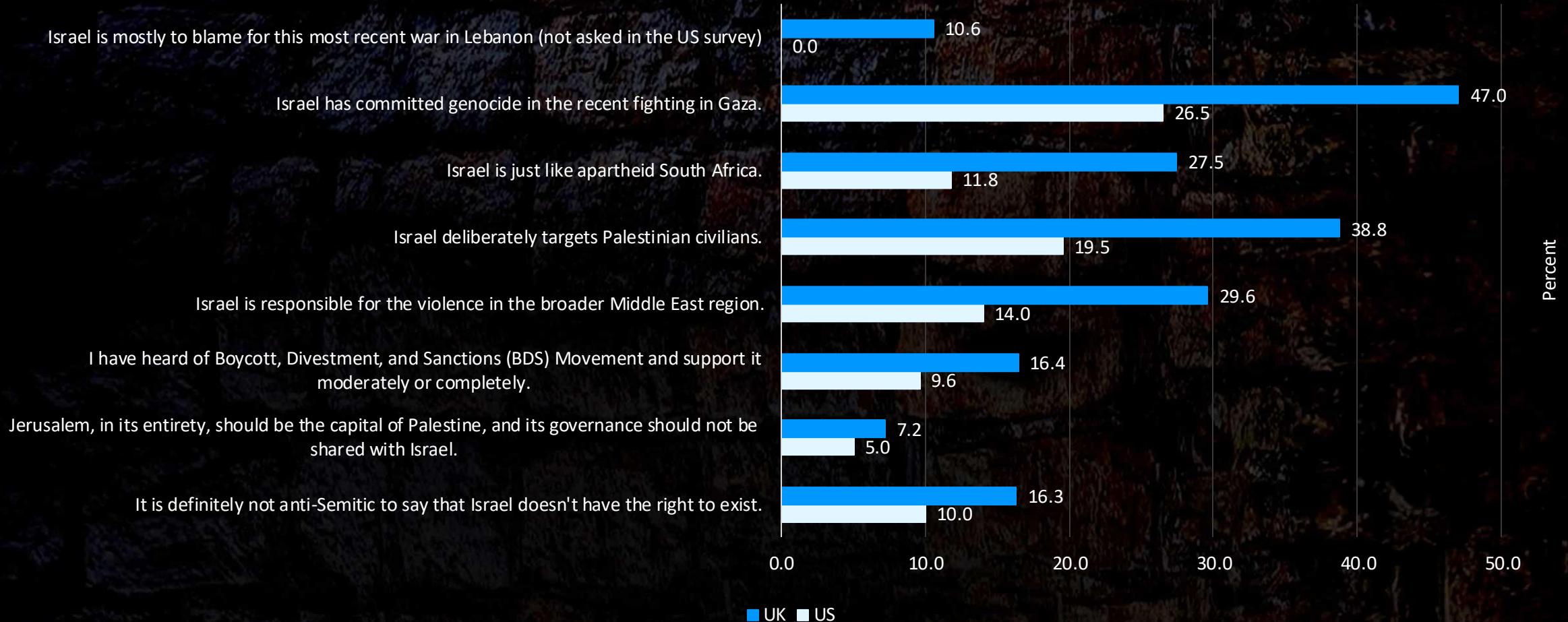
Indicate which ones of the following statements you think are probably true and which ones you think are probably false. **"Probably true" responses are graphed**



Antisemitic stereotypes continued



Anti-Zionist Statements "Probably true" responses are graphed



REGRESSION RESULTS

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT PREDICTORS OF ANTISEMITISM

1. Asian respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 190%)
2. Support for the deicide charge (↑ by 176%)
3. Far-left ideology (↑ by 114%)
4. Under-30 respondent (↑ by 75.3%)
5. Supersessionist beliefs (↑ by 63.2%)
6. Female respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↓ by 59.7%)
7. Anglican denomination (↓ by 41.8%)
8. Educational attainment (↓ by 15.6%)
9. Concerns about wealth/income inequality (↑ by 13%-117%)
10. Frequency of church attendance (↓ by 9.3%- 55.8%)

STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT

- Urban residence
 - Northern Ireland resident
 - Black respondent
 - Household income
 - Marital status (married)
 - Far-right ideology
 - Knowledge of Israeli-Palestinian conflict
 - Anti-Zionist sentiments
 - Exposure to Jewish people/traditions
 - Evangelical and Baptist denomination
 - Pentecostal-Charismatic denomination
 - Catholic denomination
-

Top 5 Correlates of Antisemitism

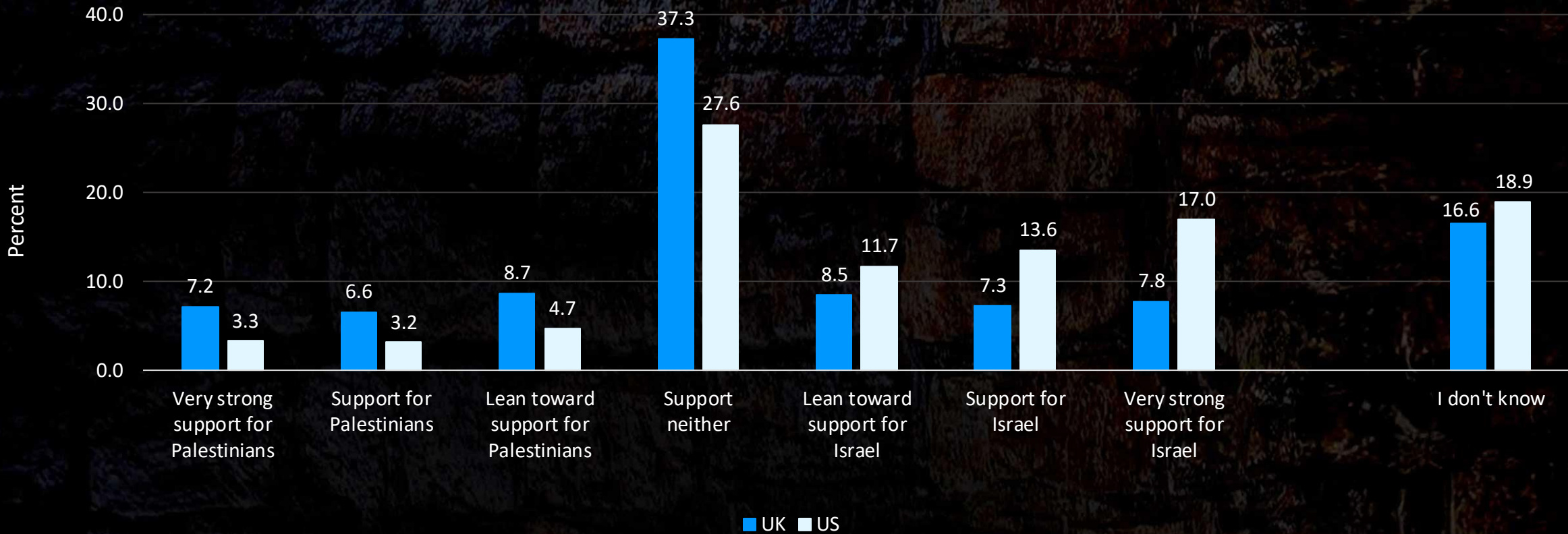
UK	US
1. Asian respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 190%)	1. Age: 30-49 respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 107%) and under-30 respondent (↑ by 87.5%)
2. Support for the deicide charge (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 176%)	2. Support for the deicide charge (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 64.6%)
3. Far-left ideology (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 114%)	3. Far-left ideology (likelihood of antisemitism ↓ by 61.1%)
4. Under-30 respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 75.3%)	4. Supersessionist beliefs (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 51.7%)
5. Supersessionist beliefs (likelihood of antisemitism ↑ by 63.2%)	5. Female respondent (likelihood of antisemitism ↓ by 46.4%)

What are the causes of Christian support for Israel?

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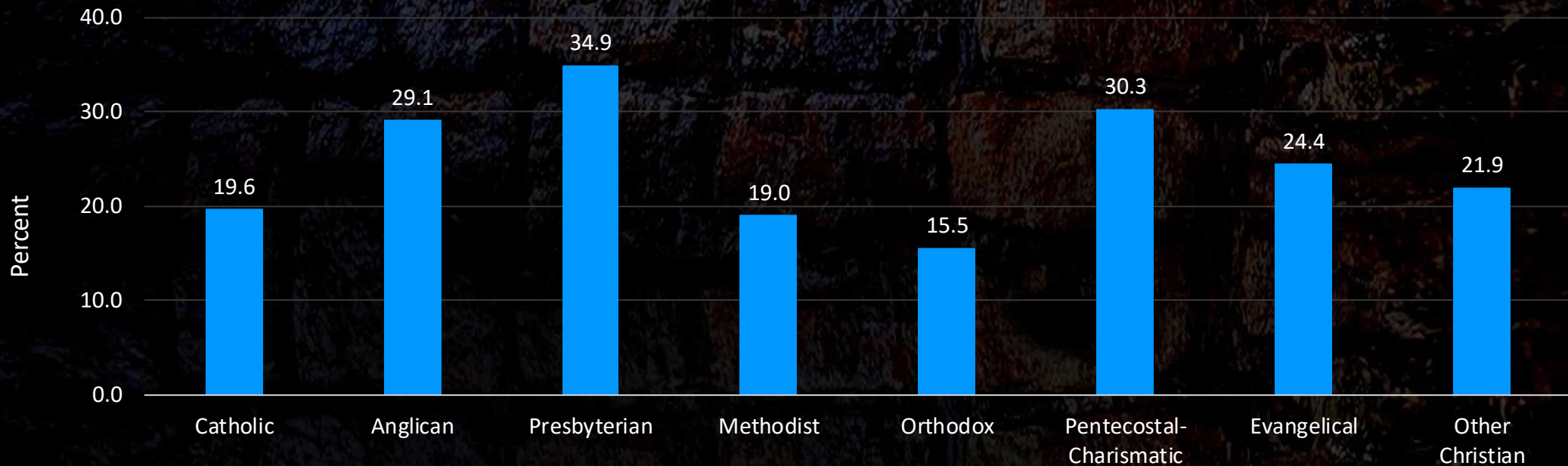
Support for Israel

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, where do you place your support?



Total Support for Israel by Denomination (UK)

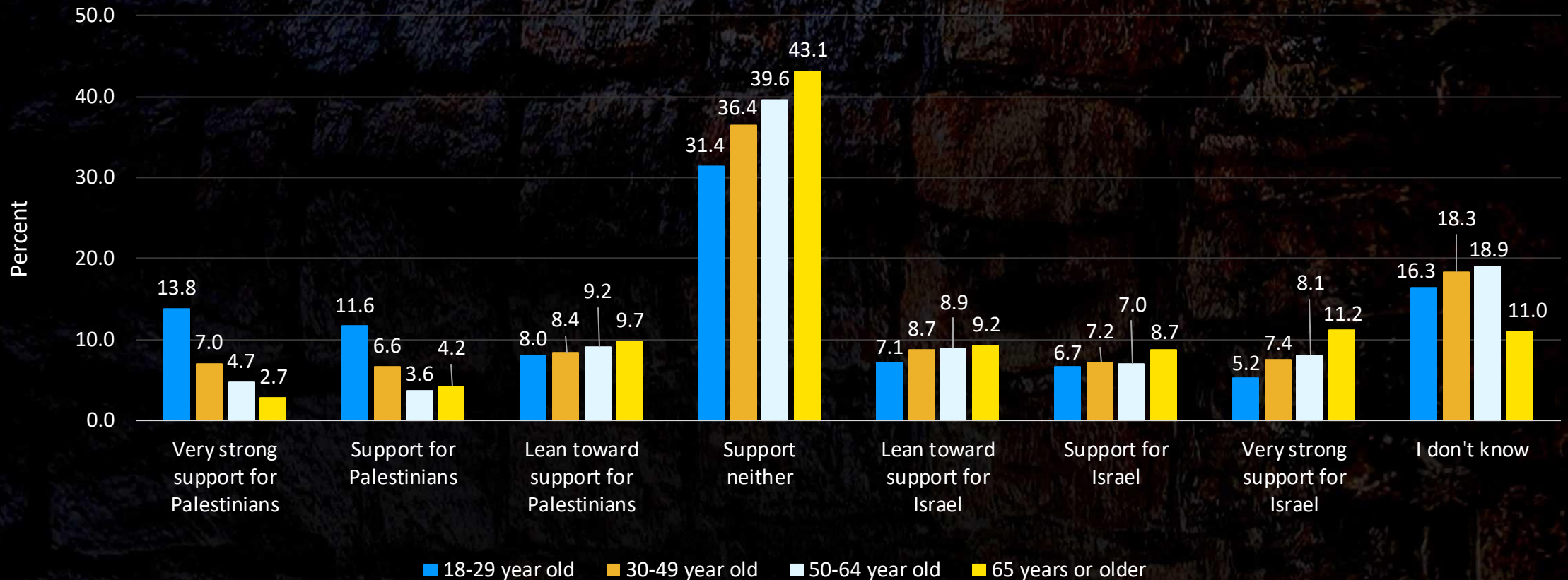
In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, where do you place your support?



Note: Total support for Israel reflects a combination of "lean toward support for Israel," "support Israel," and "very strong support for Israel" responses.

Total Support for Israel by Age (UK)

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, where do you place your support?



What are the causes of Christian support for Israel?

Regression Analysis Results

- Theological beliefs related to the Abrahamic Covenant and the Second Coming of Christ, as well as a belief that Israel continues to be important for fulfilling the Biblical prophecy
 - Catholics are less pro-Israel than the Protestants
 - Frequent socialization with other pro-Israel Christians
 - Frequent interaction with Jews and exposure to their cultural and religious practices
-

- Conservative/right-wing ideology and positions on “social justice” issues
 - Opposition to the two-state solution
 - Specific contemporary issues also play a role:
 - Concerns about antisemitism
 - Concerns about “social justice”-type of issues
 - Opinion of Muslims
 - Generational differences are very consequential, with younger respondents expressing significantly lower levels of support than older respondents
 - Race and ethnicity are also important intervening factors
 - African Americans and British Asians are less supportive of Israel than other racial/ethnic groups in their respective countries
-

Regression Results

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT PREDICTORS OF ISRAEL SUPPORT

1. Bible says Christians should support Israel (↑ support for Israel by 126%)
2. Israel is important to fulfilling Biblical prophecy (↑ by 105%)
3. God's covenant with Jews is eternal (↑ by 76.3%)
4. Under-50 respondent (↓ by 40.4-59.2%)
5. Asian respondent (↓ by 57.9%)
6. Catholic respondent (↓ by 45%)
7. Concerned about antisemitism in UK (↑ by 32.8%)
8. Positive opinion of Muslims (↓ by 32.5%)
9. Strong "social justice" concerns (↓ by 27.9%)
10. Support for the two-state solution (↓ by 20.4%)
11. Education (↑ by 18.4%)

STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT

- Urbanicity
 - Black respondent
 - Household income
 - Marital status (married)
 - Gender (female)
 - Ideology
 - Knowledge of Israeli-Palestinian conflict
 - Frequency of hearing other pro-Israel Christians talk about Israel's importance
 - Exposure to Jews and their customs
 - Jesus was a Jew
 - Frequency of church attendance
-

Top 5 Predictors of Support for Israel

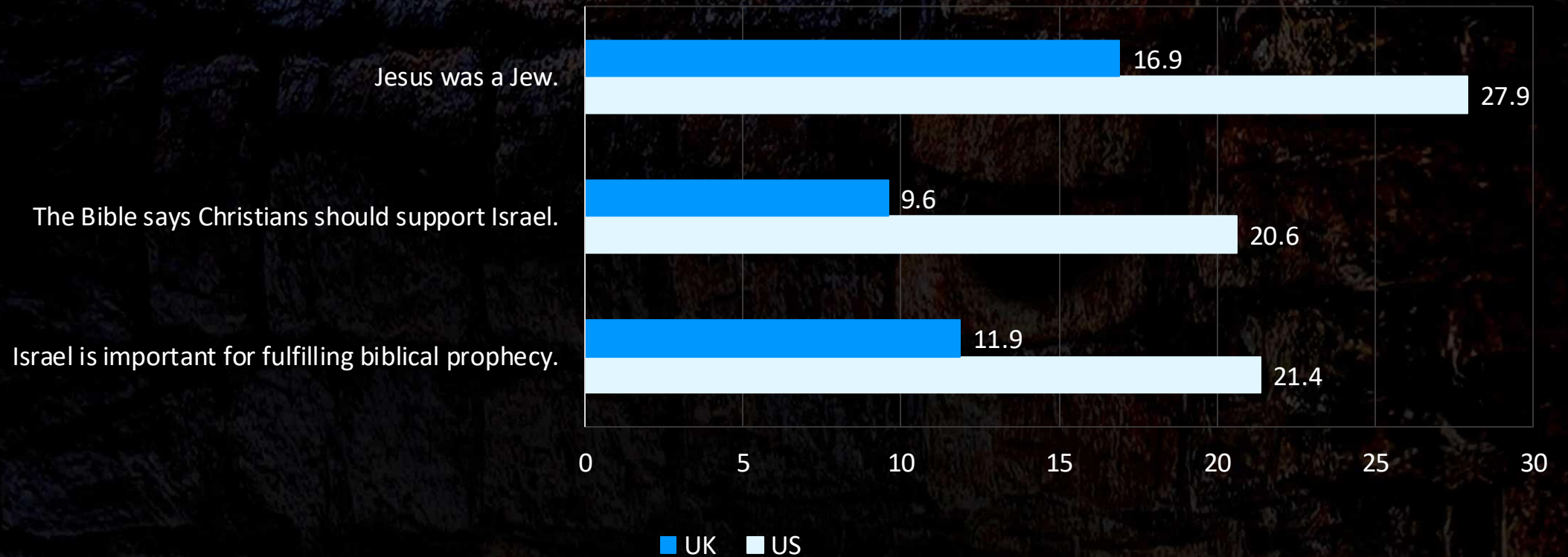
UK	US
1. Bible says Christians should support Israel (↑ support for Israel by 126%)	1. God's covenant with Jews is eternal (↑ support for Israel by 156%)
2. Israel is important to fulfilling Biblical prophecy (↑ support for Israel by 105%)	2. Israel is important to fulfilling Biblical prophecy (↑ support for Israel by 81.1%)
3. God's covenant with Jews is eternal (↑ support for Israel by 76.3%)	3. Under-30 respondent (↓ support for Israel by 63.9%)
4. Under-30 respondent (↓ support for Israel by 59.2%)	4. Bible says Christians should support Israel (↑ support for Israel by 57.1%)
5. Asian respondent (↓ support for Israel by 57.9%)	5. Amillennial eschatology (↓ support for Israel by 54.3%)

What explains the differences between the US and UK?

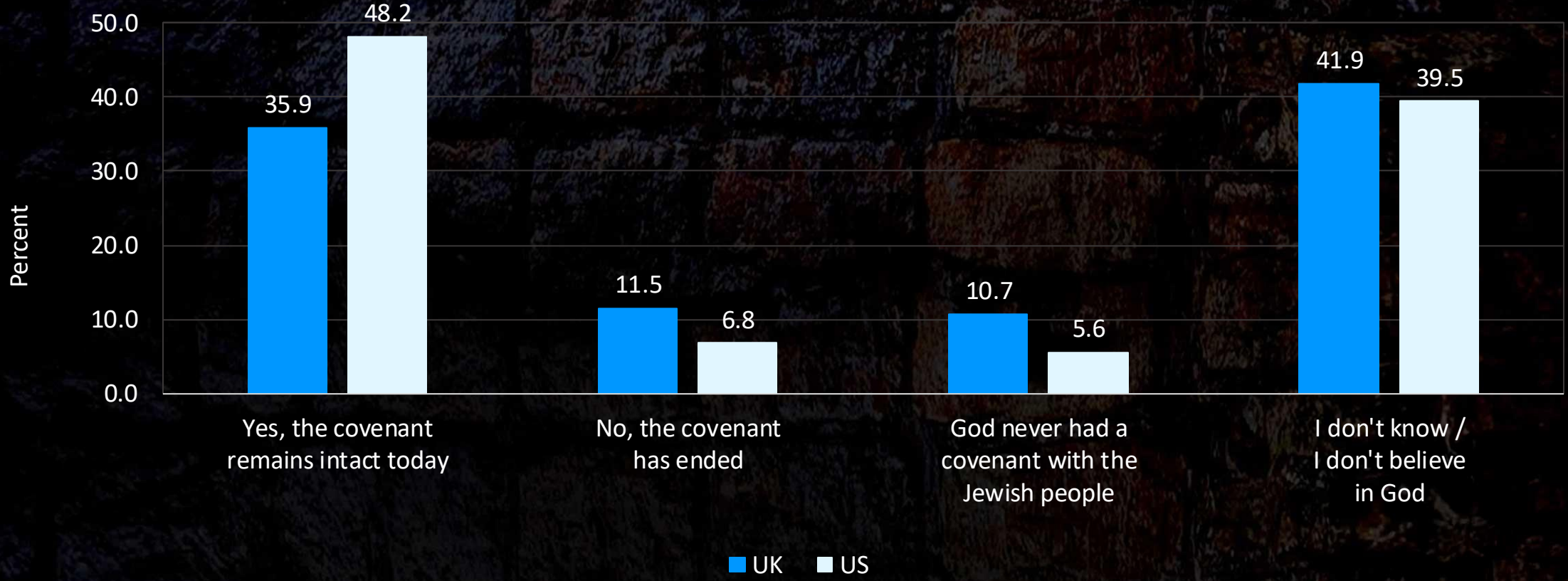
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Support for Israel

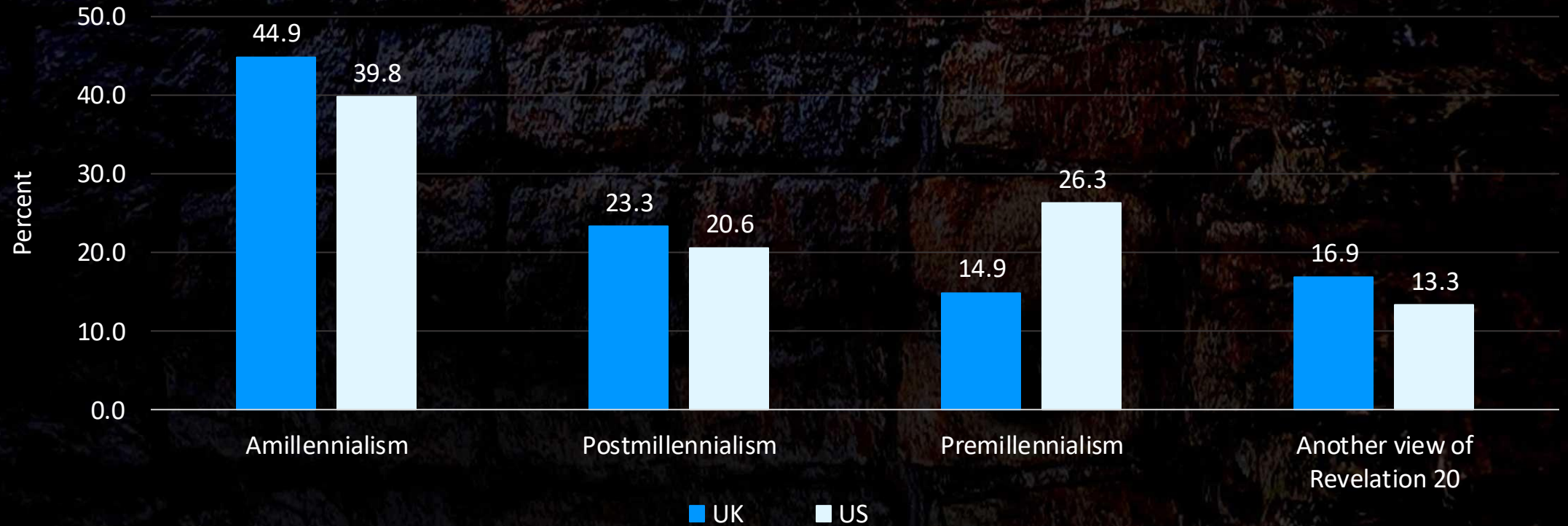
Which of the following reasons, if any, have positively influenced your opinions about Israel today? (Select all that apply)



Do you believe God's covenant with the Jewish people remains intact today?



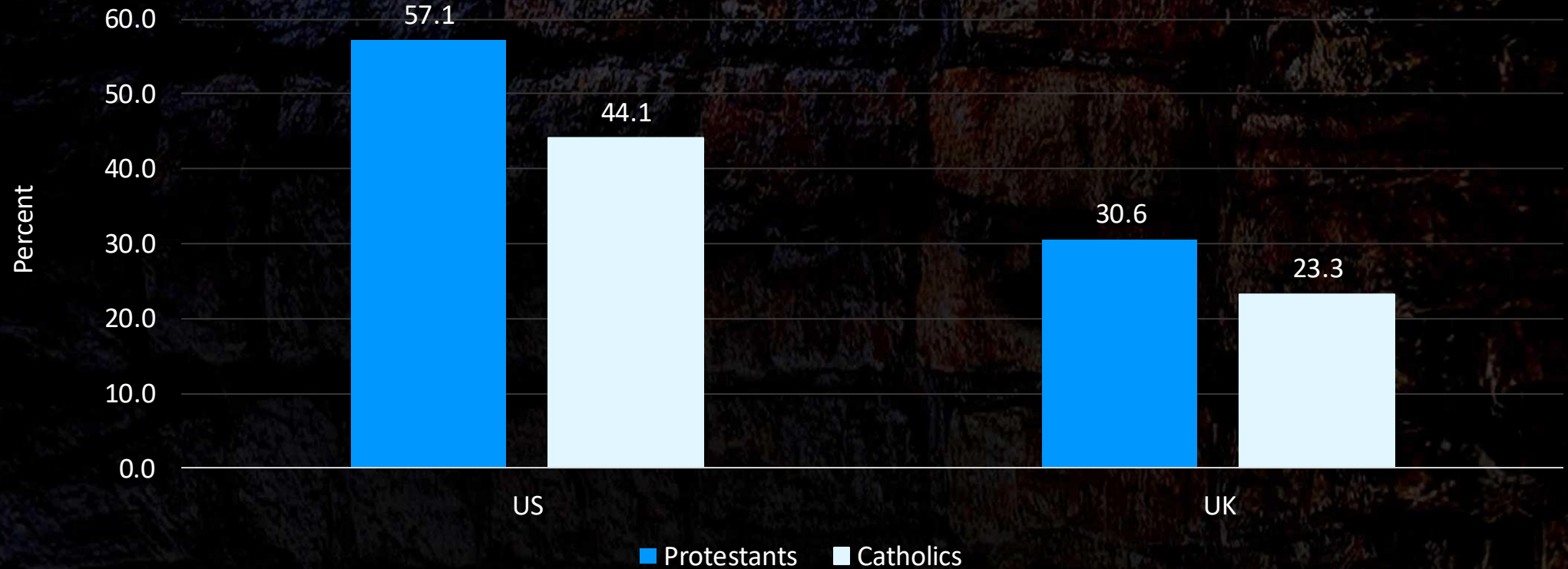
Eschatology



Note: Question probed respondents about their interpretation of the millennium in the Bible passage in Revelation 20 which says that Christ shall reign "a thousand years."

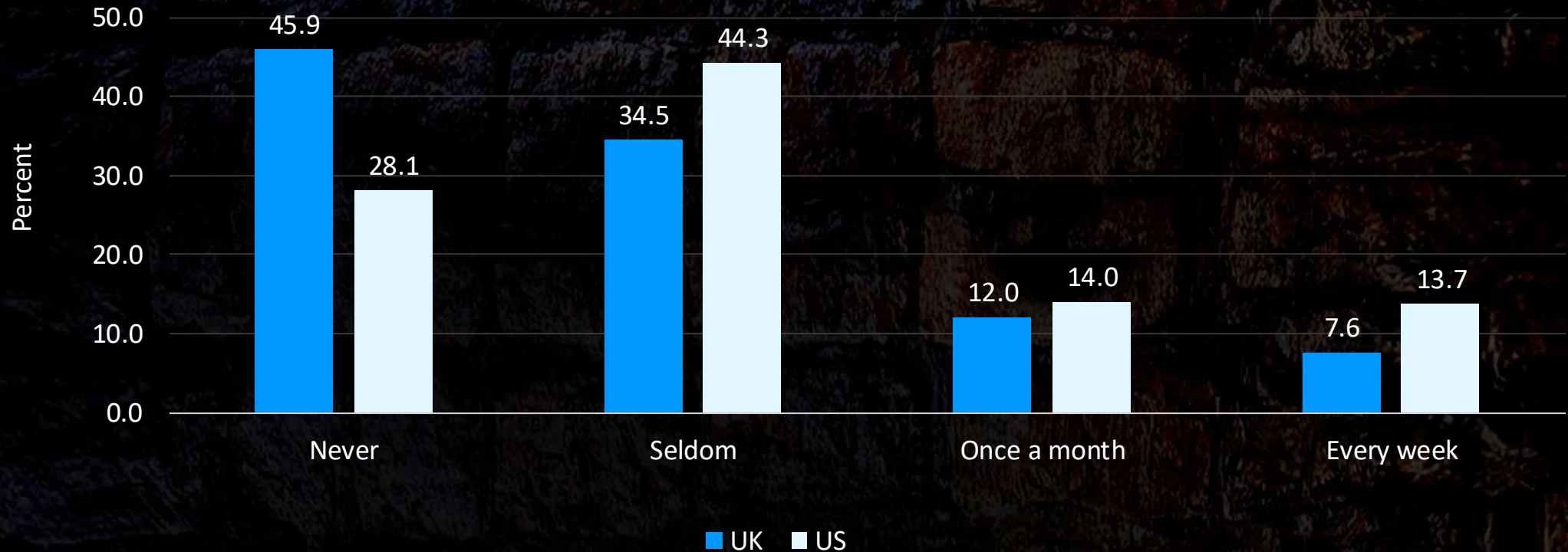
Catholics are less sympathetic to Israel than the Protestants.

Total support for Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

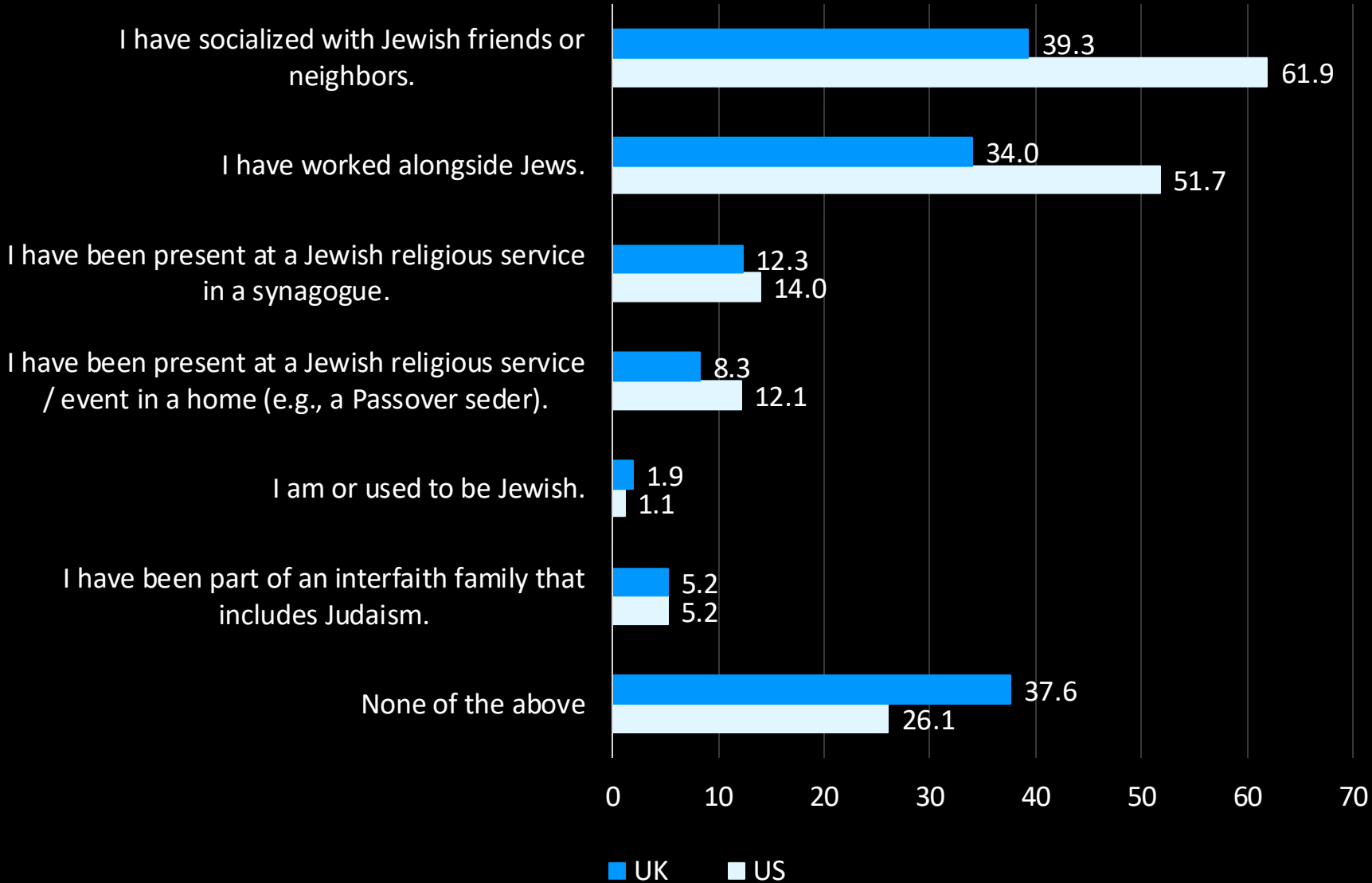


Frequent socialization with other pro-Israel Christians bolsters support for Israel.

How often do you hear members of your faith community talk about the importance of supporting Israel?

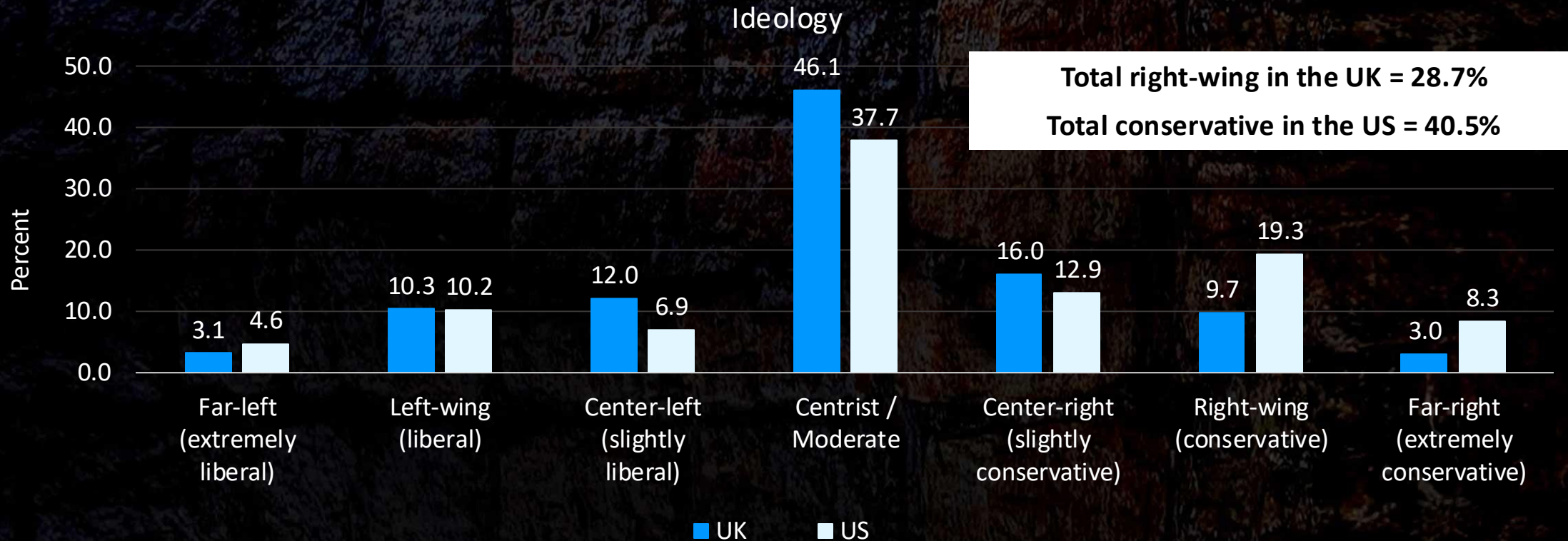


Select any of the following that applies to you. Select all that apply.
(percent of respondents who selected each category)



Frequent interaction with Jews and exposure to their cultural and religious practices increases likelihood of strong support for Israel.

Conservative/right-wing ideology and positions on social justice issues are strong predictors of support for Israel in the context of Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Note: Because the term “liberal” is understood differently in the US and other parts of the world, US question gave respondents different response options (in parentheses) in order to assure similar interpretation of ideological labels.

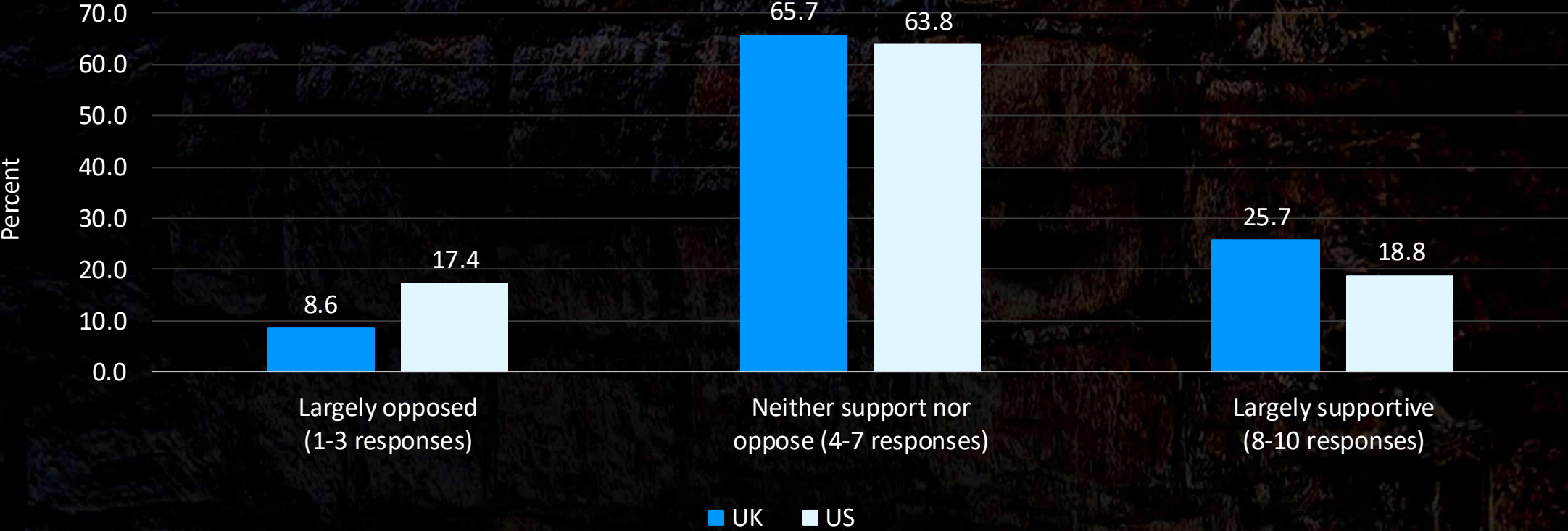
Support for Israel among Conservative/Right-Wing Christians



Note: Because liberalism is understood differently in the US and other parts of the world, US question gave respondents differently-worded options in order to assure similar interpretation of ideological labels ("conservative" label used in the US; "right-wing" used in the UK). Total support for Israel combines "lean toward," "support Israel," and "very strong support" responses.

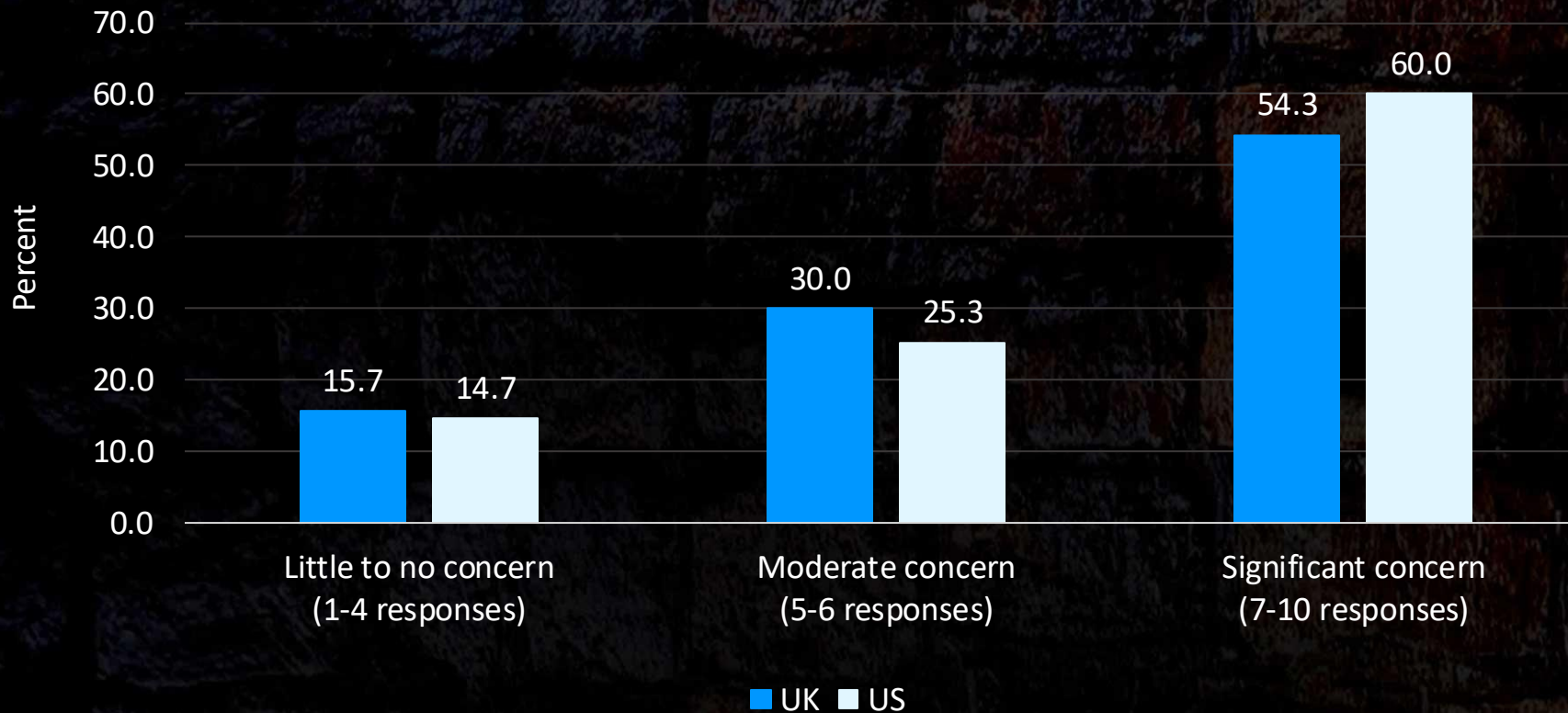
Respondents who support the two-state solution are less supportive of Israel than those respondents who oppose an independent Palestinian state, next to Israel.

On a scale of 1-10, do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, alongside Israel?



Pro-Israel respondents are also typically greatly concerned about antisemitism in their own societies.

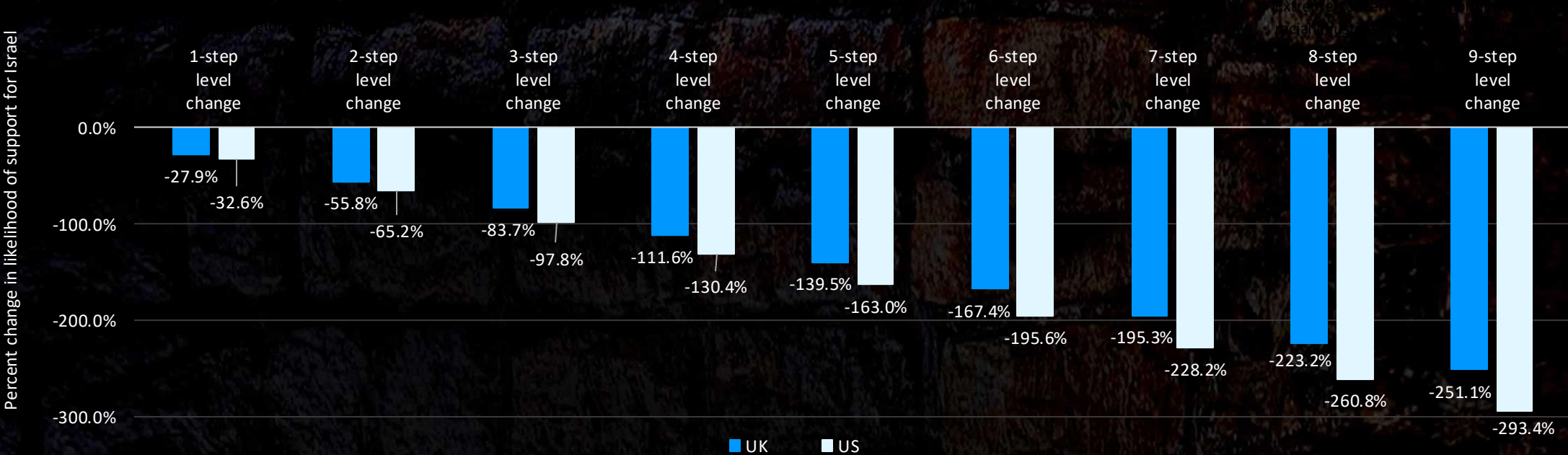
How worried are you about anti-Semitism in your country today?



Concern about anti-Semitism has stronger impact on support for Israel among Americans (32.8% increase in likelihood of strong support for Israel) than among British (26.5% increase)

Respondents who are deeply concerned about economic and racial inequality or climate change are less supportive of Israel than their right-wing compatriots, who downplay such “social justice” issues.

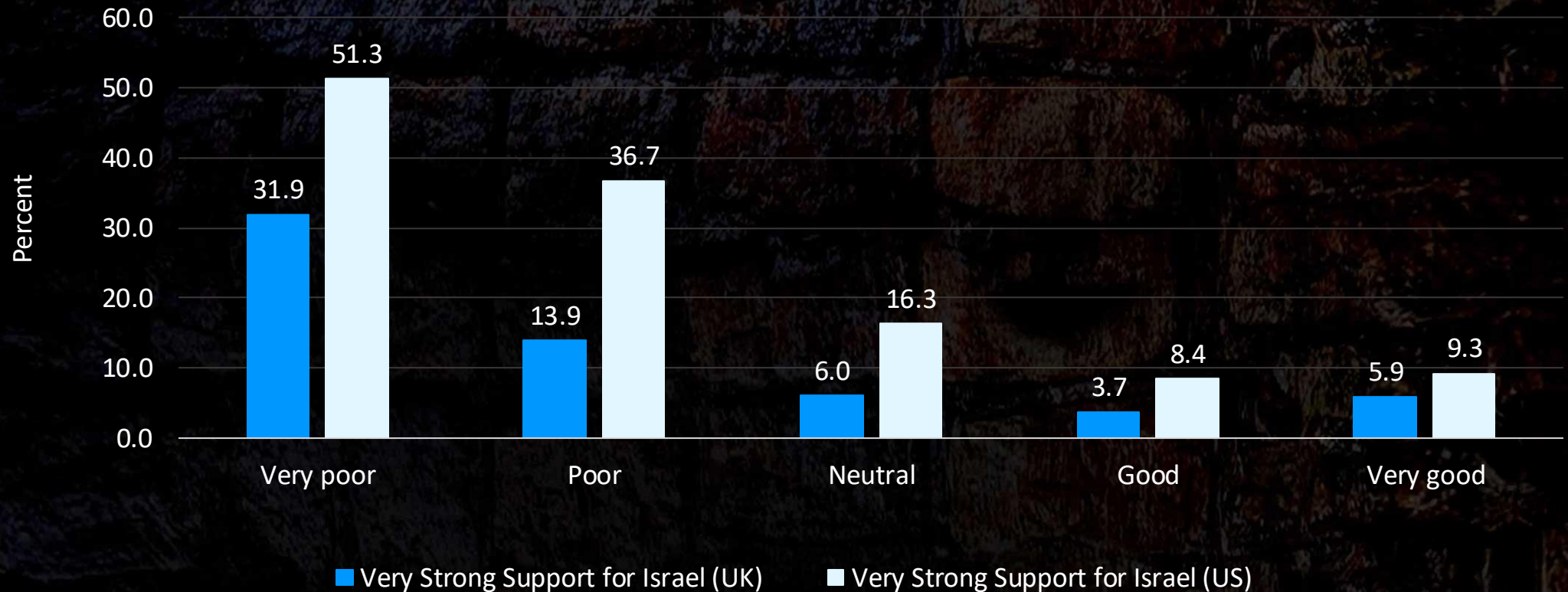
The Impact of Social Justice Concerns on Support for Israel
(as social justice concerns increase in their intensity, negative impact on support for Israel also increases)



Note: As the respondent indicates higher level of concern for social justice issues, support for Israel declines more precipitously. Thus, when we compare a US respondent who has a minimal concern for social justice issues (2 on a 1-10 scale) with someone who is extremely concerned (10 on a 1-10 scale), the likelihood of support for Israel declines by 293.4% among the latter.

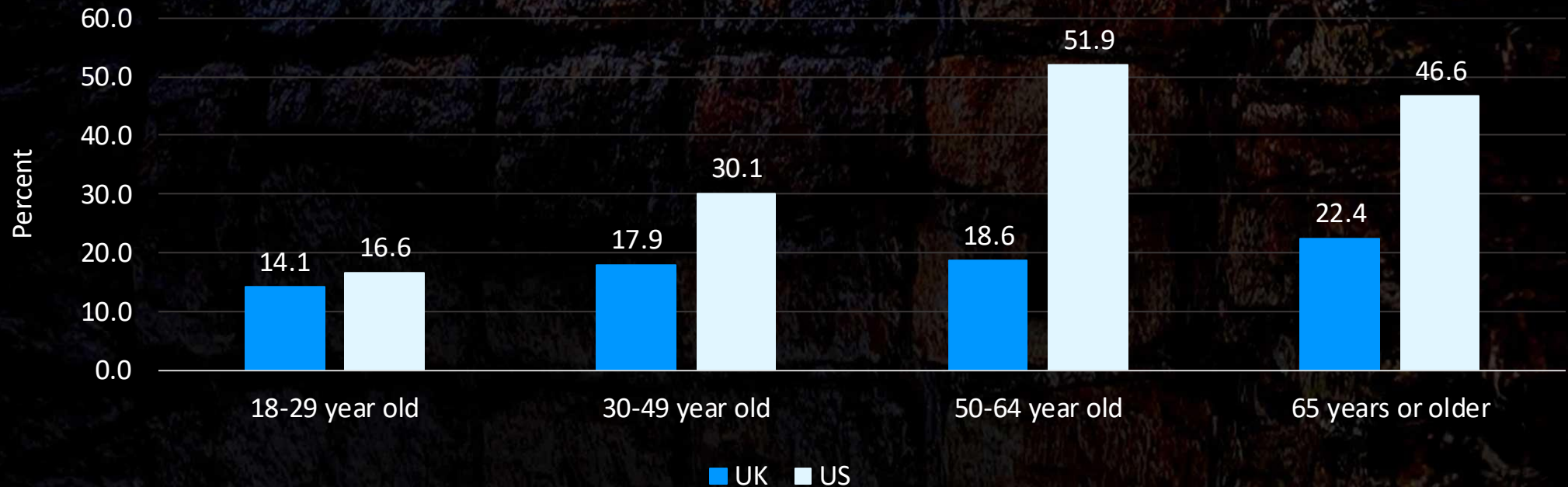
Positive sentiments about Muslims go hand in hand with lower support for Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Negative opinion of Muslims bolsters support for Israel.

Opinion of Muslims among respondents who expressed “very strong support for Israel”



Generational differences are very consequential, with younger respondents expressing significantly lower levels of support than older respondents.

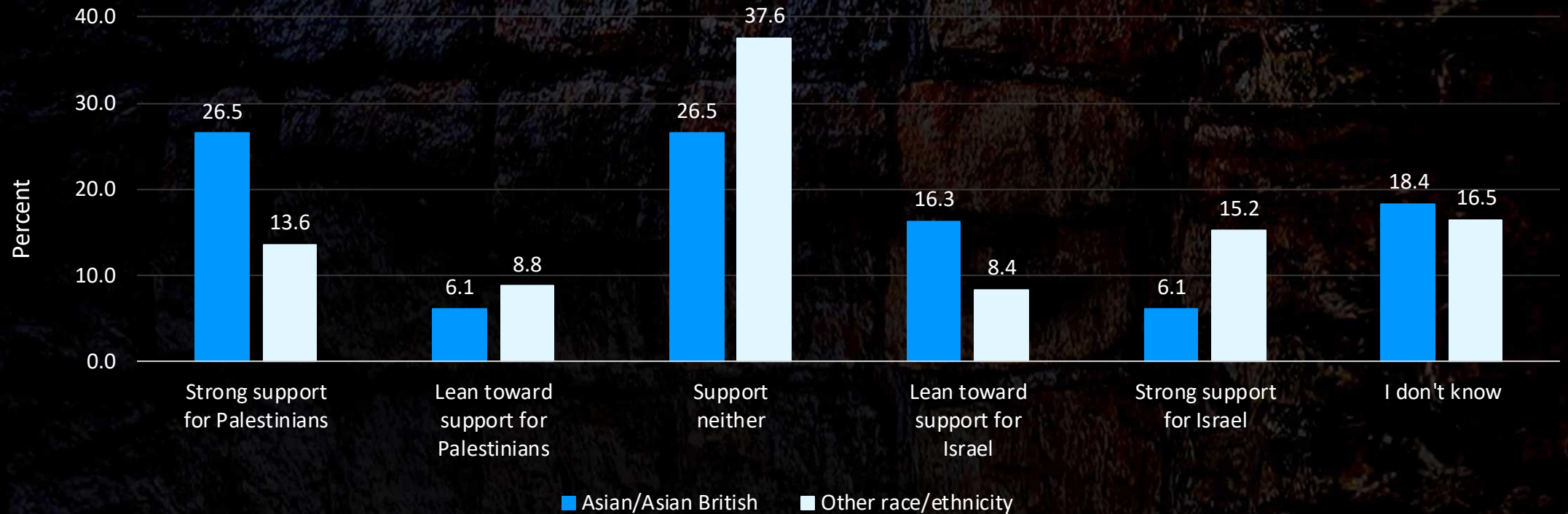
Strong support for Israel by Age Cohort



Note: Strong support for Israel reflects a combination of "support Israel" and "very strong support for Israel" responses.

British Asians are less supportive of Israel than other racial/ethnic groups in the UK

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, where do you place your support?



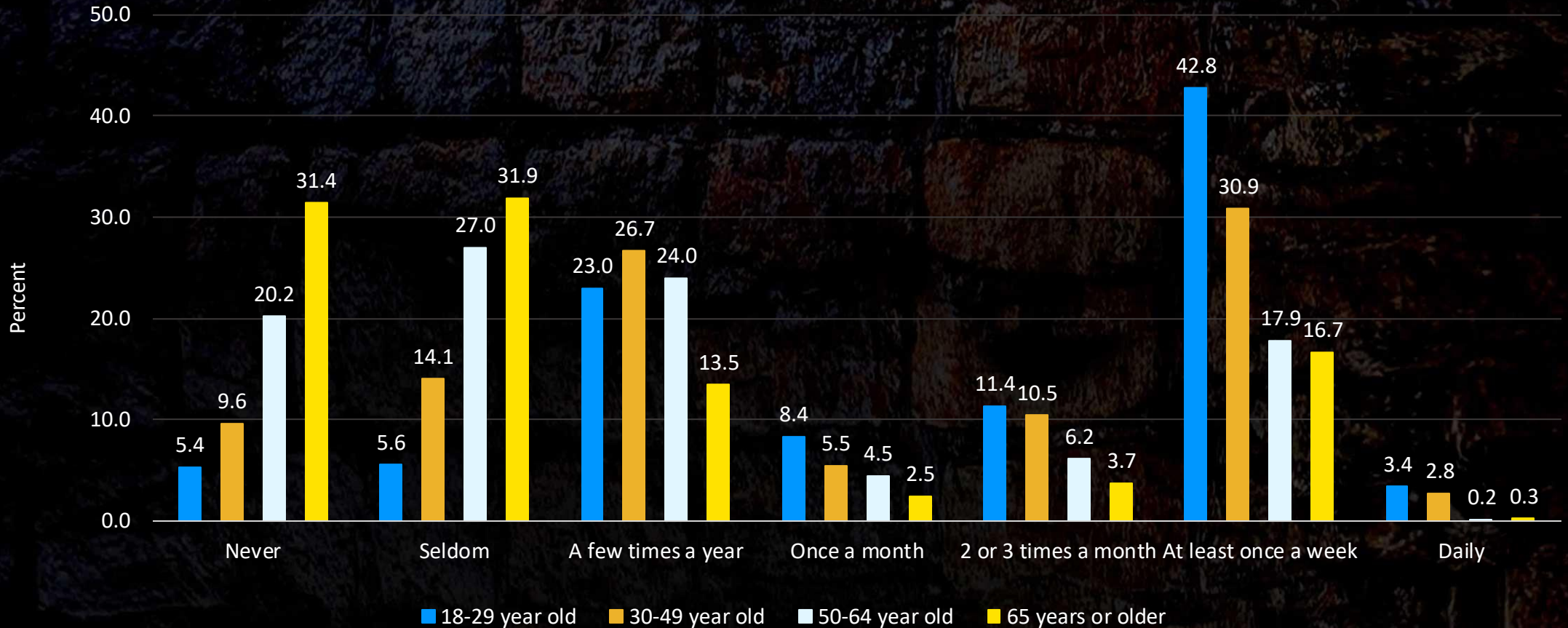
Note: Strong support reflects combined "very strong support for Israel [Palestinians]" and "support Israel [Palestinians]" responses.

A Unique Case: Young British Christians

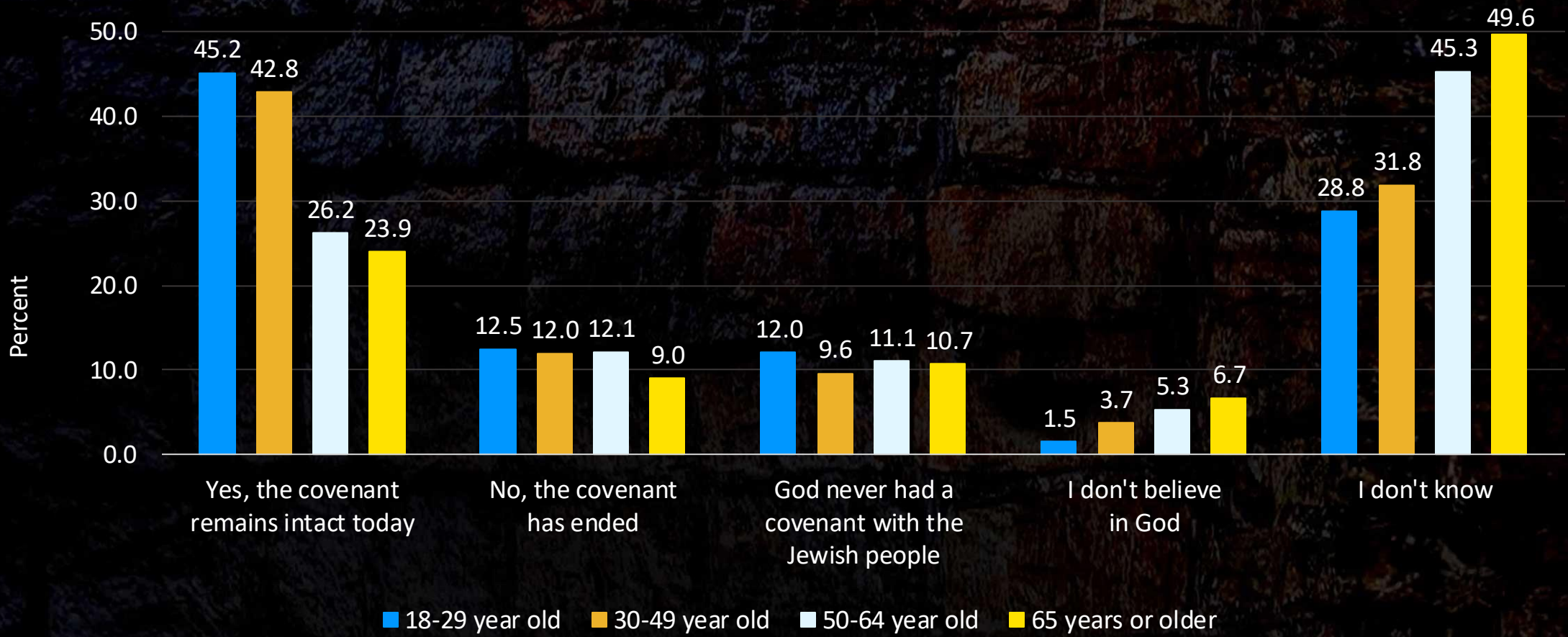
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- Studies consistently show that younger generations in the UK are generally less religious than older generations.
 - However, our study found some indications that young British Christians are exhibiting the opposite trends.
 - **Younger generations of Christians in the UK may be more religiously observant than older generations of Christians.**
-

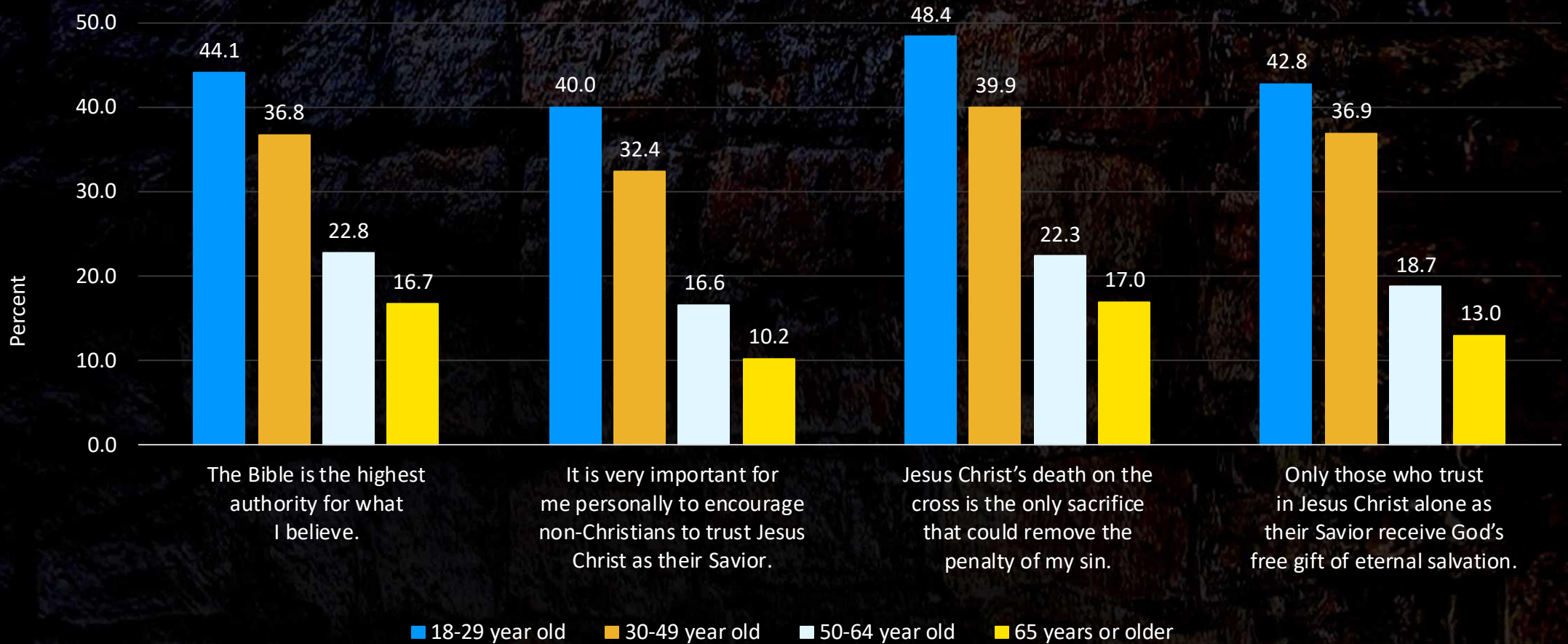
Frequency of Church Attendance by Age Cohort (UK only)



Do you believe God's covenant with the Jewish people remains intact today? UK only

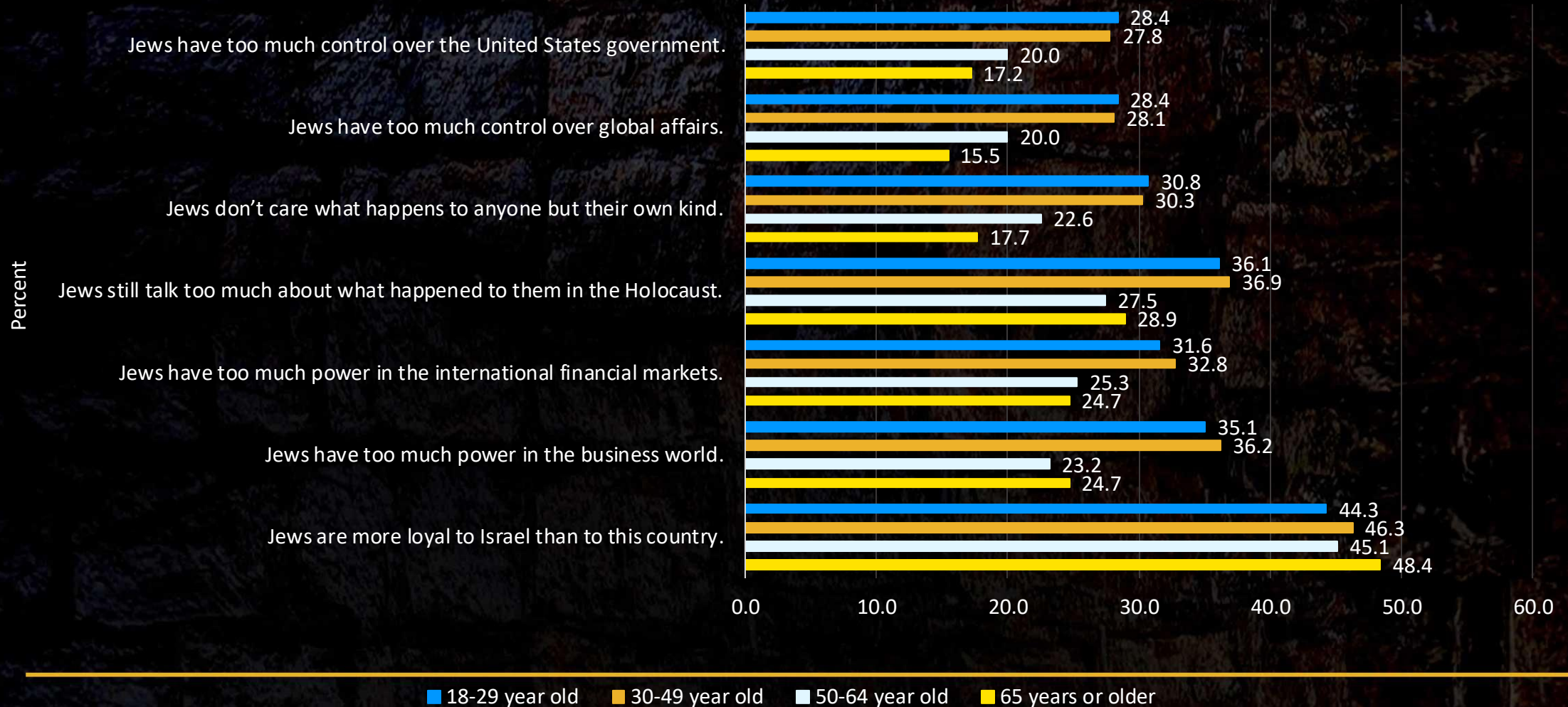


NAE Evangelical definition "Strongly agree" responses by Age



However, in comparison to under-30 American Christians, a much larger proportion of young British Christians endorse antisemitic tropes and unsympathetic views of Israel. Their religious revival does not seem to make them pro-Israel or less antisemitic.

Which of the following statements you think are probably true and which ones you think are probably false. "Probably true" responses by Age Cohorts (UK only)



conclusions

- British Christians are less supportive of Israel and less likely to have positive perceptions of the Jewish people than American Christians
 - Their views include a higher percentage of stereotypical views of Jews, compared with American Christians
 - Catholics are the least pro-Israel Christian denomination (in both UK and US); Protestants generally hold higher levels of support for Israel.
-

- Unlike under-30 Christians in the US, young Christians in the UK tend to be more religious than older generations of Christians.
 - Unlike young American Christians who tend to hold favorable views of Jews and Israel, young Brits are significantly more likely to hold more negative opinions of Jews and Israel than older British Christians, although they hold high levels of religiosity.
-

Questions?
