

- a. The kingdom of God is primarily a present reality. The kingdom is not a realm, a domain over which the Lord reigns. It is more correctly the rule of Christ in the hearts of man.
 - b. The preaching of the gospel, accompanied by the Holy Spirit's convicting and regenerating work, will produce a conversion of the nations prior to Christ's return. Not necessarily one hundred percent of the people will be converted, but substantially all persons in each of the areas and nations of the world will come to believe.
 - c. As more and more persons submit themselves to the Lord's plan and begin to practice the teachings and way of life that He established, a long period of earthly peace called the millennium will be ushered into world history. This period, which is yet future, will not necessarily be 1,000 years long, but will simply be a long period.
 - d. The millennium will not begin in a sudden, dramatic fashion; rather it will arrive by degrees, as the continuing spread of the gospel increasingly introduces the kingdom and causes it to grow.
 - e. At the end of the millennium there will be a time of apostasy and a flare-up of evil occurring in connection with the coming of the Antichrist.
 - f. The millennium will end with the personal, bodily return of Christ to the earth. Thus the name: post-millennialism.
 - g. The Lord's return will be followed immediately by a general resurrection and general judgment of the righteous and the unrighteous, and their assignment to one of two ultimate and permanent states -- heaven or hell.
3. Premillennialism

Erickson gives nine distinctives of Premillennialism:

- a. Christ's second coming will establish His earthly reign, a period in which the will of God is done on earth, when there will be complete peace, righteousness, and justice among man, and Christ's reign will be an actuality among man.
- b. This earthly millennium will not come into reality through a gradual process of progressive growth or development, but rather will be dramatically or cataclysmically inaugurated by the second coming. The return of Christ will be similar to His departure -- dramatic and external, readily observable by anyone, and consequently unmistakable.
- c. The millennium will not be a mere extension and perfection of trends already present on earth. It will not be brought into being by human engineering or social improvement. In fact, it will be preceded by a deterioration, not an improvement, of spiritual and social conditions. Conditions on the earth will be transformed supernaturally.