The Burj Khalifa in Dubai is the tallest building in the world, standing 2,716 feet (828 m) tall. The extraordinary weight and height require a massive foundation in the sandy soil to support the superstructure against earthquakes and wind. The foundation consists of a gigantic concrete-and-steel mat, which is approximately 12 feet (3.7 m) thick and extends over roughly 48,400 square feet (4,500 sq. m.). In addition to the large surface area, the foundation piles extend 164 feet (50 m) belowground to rest on a layer of very hard rock and help evenly distribute the weight of the building and prevent the foundation from sinking or shifting over time.

Every building and organization needs a solid foundation. Societies around the world are built on various foundational governing principles, ideals, and concepts, without which they cannot function properly. Even so, none of them have lasted forever. Empires, kingdoms, governments, and societies all rise and eventually fall.

The government of the universe, the kingdom of God, is the largest and most important organization in existence. Its territory includes all of reality in all dimensions, in eternity past and eternity future. Just like the Burj Khalifa needs a massive foundation to stand secure, a superstructure of such infinite magnitude as God’s government needs a foundation that’s just as eternal, enduring, and powerful as God Himself in order to withstand the “earthquakes” of Satan’s claims against God’s rulership. The ingredients to the metaphorical concrete that makes up this universal super-foundation will be the focus of this week’s study.
Write out Psalm 97 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 1–6. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can God be righteous and just and yet accept and forgive sinners?

Why do you think so many people doubt God’s leadership? How can we learn to trust His leadership?
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Where do you go for a quick fix or a moment of relief? How do these sources compare to the ultimate Source?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC04-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Psalm 97?

Nehemiah 9:5, 6
Psalm 89:14
Psalm 93:1, 2
Psalm 99
Isaiah 9:7
Isaiah 33:22
Revelation 4

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Psalm 97.
In what ways does Psalm 97 describe Jesus as the King of the universe?

What is Jesus saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Psalm 97 again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC04-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How have you learned to trust God as your Ruler? What’s holding you back from trusting Him fully?

How can we live and speak in a way that encourages more people to trust God’s leadership?

What is God’s justice, and how does it relate to His righteousness?

How does Psalm 97 portray the relationship between God and His creations?

What kind of alternative kingdom and rulership does Satan offer?

What makes God worthy of worship to you?

What are some idols and gods in today’s world?

As citizens of God’s kingdom, how can we demonstrate righteousness and justice in our lives and earthly communities?

How does the idea of God’s government being built on righteousness and justice challenge our societal structures and practices?