Revelation chap. 5

The book with seven seals

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The throne room scene that was begun in the previous chapter is continued here with a book or scroll in the right hand of him that sits on the throne. The book is written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. I have heard many interpretations for this sealed book from the book of life to the deed for the kingdom of Christ and even the book of Daniel which was also sealed up. I tend to go with the book of Daniel because that is the only book in the bible that we know for sure is sealed up and will be unsealed at the end of time. This scene in heaven is most likely a glimpse into the future with the grand unsealing of the book of Daniel.

A strong angel proclaims in a loud voice - who is worthy to open the book and loose the seven seals? No man in heaven or earth is found worthy to open the book or look upon it and John weeps because he is filled with the Spirit and is caught up in the emotion of this event. One of the elders approaches him and says weep not because the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the root of David has prevailed to open the book and break its seals. This word 'prevail' is the same that is used for the overcomers in the seven churches. Jesus said of himself that he overcame and sat down with his Father in his throne and John said this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith (Rev. 3:21; 1John 5:4).

Next we are shown a Lamb in the midst of the throne as if it had been slain having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. This is a very important verse in our quest to understand bible prophecy. There are many beasts with horns in Daniel and Revelation and this shows that the horns are submissive and controlled by the head. Evil beasts or angels can send their horns or kings into all parts of the earth. The Lamb takes the book out of the right hand of him that sits on the throne and the beasts and elders fall down before the Lamb and sing a new song saying - you are worthy to take the book and open the seals. The elders are said to have been redeemed from the earth by the blood of the Lamb so these people are most likely some of the saints who have been saved. When Jesus was resurrected there were other saints who were also resurrected and went into Jerusalem and appeared to many (Matt. 27:52,53).

The voices of many angels are next heard and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. This final scene of adoration to the Father and the Lamb is said to include every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and even those who are in the sea saying blessing and honor and glory and power to him that sits on the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever. This may be a glimpse into the even distant future when sin and sinners are no more and all of creation rejoices over the glorious victory of Christ when the kingdom of heaven has been fully ushered in.