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EDITOR: KEITH A. MORSE

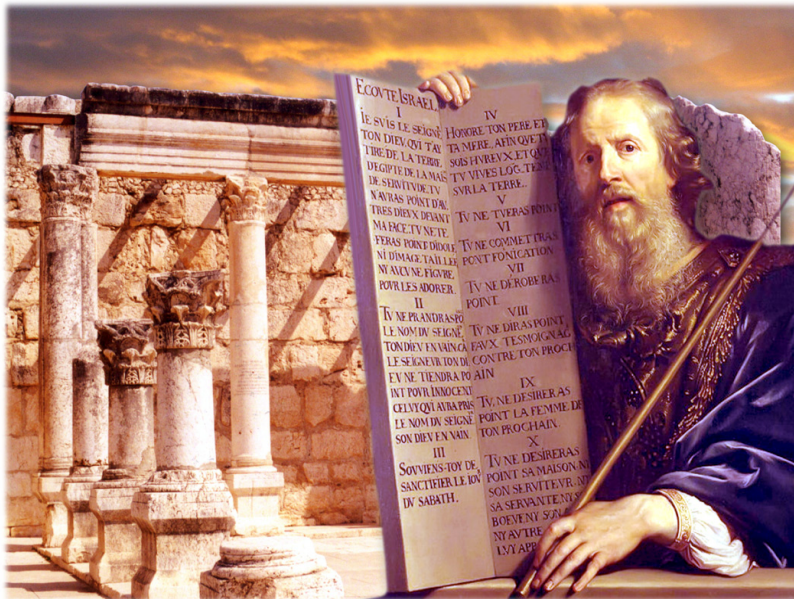
## Revelation and the Believer Is God Speaking Today and, If So, How?

by Gary E. Gilley

In an age when there are many voices urging us to travel in many different directions, discernment is invaluable. However, when used by those in the Spiritual Formation Movement, discernment is defined as that which enables one to know when he or she has heard the voice of God. Teachers of spiritual formation believe that because God is speaking to believers apart from Scripture, there has to be a means whereby we can distinguish the voice of God from one's own thoughts. Adele Ahlberg Calhoun writes in her *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, "Discernment opens us up to listen to and recognize the voice and patterns of God's direction in our lives."<sup>1</sup>

we develop an intuitive sense of God's heart and purpose in any given moment. We become familiar with God's voice — the

tone, quality and content — just as we become familiar with the voice of a human being we know well."<sup>2</sup>



Christian psychologist and author Larry Crabb believes he has learned the art of listening to God and proposes to let us in on what he has discovered in his book, *The Papa Prayer*, "Sometimes, though never audibly, I hear the Father speak more clearly than I hear the voice of a human friend."<sup>3</sup> Pastor John Ortberg adds, "It is one thing to speak to God. It is another thing to listen. When we listen to God, we receive guidance from the Holy Spirit."<sup>4</sup>

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Ruth Barton further explains:

"The habit of discernment is a quality of attentiveness to God that is so intimate that over time

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