Queries & Comments

BAR Readers Wrestle with a Feminist Scholar

The Word of the Lord

In one of the questions in your interview with Phyllis Trible ("Wrestling with Scripture," 32:02), she responded incorrectly. Professor Trible stated, ""The word of the Lord" is a prophetic genre, but that phrase does not appear at all in a book like Genesis." The expression devar YHWH, "the word of the Lord" does appear in Genesis—twice (15:1 and 4)—when God speaks to Abram. In addition, the phrase ne'um YHWH, "utterance of the Lord" (one of many possible translations for this expression), which is attested several hundred times in the prophetic books, occurs in Genesis 22:16 in the story of the binding of Isaac.

Gary A. Rendsburg
Department of Jewish Studies
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey