Hans Boersma (Regent College Vancouver): "Scripture, Sacrament, and Metaphysics: Origen, Hobbes, and Spinoza"

Metaphysics is directly linked to the way in which we read Scripture. Drawing on my forthcoming book, *Scripture as Real Presence: Sacramental Exegesis in the Early Church* (Baker Academic, 2017), I will argue that a proper metaphysics is sacramental in character. That is to say, created realities exist by participating in the eternal being of God. Scripture, likewise, I argue, has a sacramental character. I hope to show that this is so by turning first to Origen (as someone whose participatory view of reality made him read the Scriptures sacramentally) and then to Thomas Hobbes and Baruch Spinoza, who I suggest lie at the origin of a modern, non-sacramental way of reading Scripture (that is to say, a historical-critical way or reading the Bible, which assumes that history is an a "purely natural" affair, completely separate from otherworldly concerns).