‘Ezekiel’s oracles against the nations in light of a royal ideology of warfare’
OTSEM III: Göttingen 2009

Dr. Carly L. Crouch
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

The paper argues that Ezekiel’s use of cosmological mythological motifs in his oracles against the nations is directly related to the theological threat to Yahweh’s status which was posed by the military defeat of Judah. The mythological imagery, identifying Egypt and Tyre as chaotic forces and describing their defeat by Yahweh, was deployed by Ezekiel as a means of affirming the power of Yahweh as creator and divine king. Ultimately Ezekiel’s efforts to this end were perceived to have failed, and passages describing the defeat of the nations in terms of a policy of *lex talionis* were introduced. The essay concludes by addressing this accrual of additional material within the OANs.