APPENDIX D

Uses of ‘Dia’

To understand what dia(+gen) means in certain key verses (Col. 1:16, John 1:10, Hebrews 1:2, and 1 Cor. 8:6) is crucial to the debate between Transcendent Monotheism and Trinitarianism. The summary below is based on an unfinished study of all the uses of dia(+gen) in the New Testament. While it is incomplete, it nonetheless makes clear that dia(+gen) is used in a variety of different ways. [I have identified 31 different uses of dia(+gen).]

The procedure I am following in this study is as follows: (1) I examine each statement in the New Testament in which the preposition dia followed by the genitive occurs. (2) I determine, on the basis of its immediate context, what each statement must mean. (3) Having determined the meaning of any given statement, I analyze what semantic relationship is being indicated by the occurrence of the preposition dia in that statement.(4) As I define the semantic relationship that is indicated by each occurrence of dia, I attempt to organize it into a taxonomy of all the various uses of dia(+gen).

Because the study is incomplete, it is only a provisional, working taxonomy at this point. But I think it is nonetheless instructive with regard to the issues being examined in this series of papers. Another problem that results from the fact that this study is still in process and currently incomplete is that there may still be various sorts of clerical errors in the current state of the written summary. Accordingly, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of what is printed below.

In terms of the summary below, here is how I have interpreted the verses that form the crux of our controversy in these papers:

John 1:3 .................“meaning” #13
John 1:10 .................“meaning” #10
Colossians 1:16 ....“meaning” #10
1 Corinthians 8:6 ...“meaning” #10
Hebrews 1:2 ..........“meaning” #10
ANALYSIS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT USE 
OF 
διά FOLLOWED BY THE GENITIVE 

by 
J. A. (Jack) Crabtree

Syntactical structure being analyzed:

\[ S \text{ διά } G \]

where

- \( S = \) any substantive or any assertion
- \( G = \) any substantive in the genitive case

KEY:

- \( p = \) a person
- \( a = \) an action
- \( o = \) a concrete object
- \( s = \) a state of affairs
- \( ab = \) an abstract entity
- \( at = \) an attribute of something
- \( e = \) an event

**Used to denote PERSONAL AGENCY**

**DIRECT PERSONAL AGENCY**

\( G \) is used to denote a person who does \( S \) or whose actions directly bring about \( S \).

1. \( G \) identifies the personal agent that does or brings about \( S \); and who does so on his own initiative.

INTERMEDIATE PERSONAL AGENCY

G is used to denote a person acting on behalf of another to do S or to bring about S.

2. G identifies the personal agent that does or brings about S; and who does so on the initiative of someone else, as his intermediary.


3. G identifies the intermediate personal agent whom God sends to proclaim a message on his behalf.


ULTIMATE PERSONAL AGENCY

G is used to denote the personal agent who is ultimately causing or responsible for S, even if other intermediate causes were present.

4. G identifies the ultimate personal agent who is ultimately responsible for doing or bringing about S; but who does so through intermediary means or agents.


5. G identifies the ultimate agent who sends some intermediate agent to do or bring about S.

PERCEIVED (PHENOMENAL) PERSONAL AGENCY

G is used to denote a person whose actions are perceived to be connected with bringing about S, but whose actions were not the actual cause of S.

6. G identifies the person whose actions would naturally appear to suggest that he is the personal agent that does or brings about S; but whose actions, in fact, are not the actual cause of S.


Used to denote BASIS

EPISTEMIC BASIS

G is used to denote someone or something that serves in some significant and noteworthy way as the epistemic basis for S.

7. G identifies the epistemic basis for the epistemic act specified in S.


8. G identifies the epistemic basis for the epistemic state specified in S.

9. G identifies the epistemic basis for the epistemic status of an assertion or set of assertions specified in S.

Mark 16:20 [G=?]

NON-EPISTEMIC BASIS

G is used to denote someone or something that makes a significant and noteworthy contribution to the basis for S.

10. G identifies the basis for S by identifying the purpose, the intended aim, or the raison d’etre of S.

John 1:10 [G=p]; Romans 3:25 [G=a]; Romans 11:36 [G=p]; 1 Corinthians 8:6 [G=p]
11. G identifies the basis for S by identifying someone or something that provides the occasion or opportunity for S.


12. G identifies the basis for S by identifying the act of a person that logically or naturally leads to or results in S.

Romans 5:17 (1st) [G=p]; 1 Corinthians 15:21 (1st) [G=p]

13. G identifies the basis for S by identifying the plan, template, blueprint, or standard for S.


14. G identifies the basis for S by identifying a fulfilled condition for S.

Romans 8:11 [G=?]

15. G identifies the basis for S by identifying a cause of S.


16. G identifies the basis for S by identifying a motivation for S.

2 Corinthians 2:4 [G=?]

17. G identifies the basis for S by identifying the source of power and/or authority for S.

**APPENDIX D: Uses of ‘Dia’**

**Used to denote an EXPLANATORY REFERENCE POINT**

G is used to denote someone or something that serves as a context or a reference point that serves to explain something significant and noteworthy about the nature of S.

18. G identifies the context or reference point from which to look at and understand S.


**Used to denote HOW SOMETHING CAME TO BE**

G is used to denote how it is that S is done or how S comes to be.

**MEDIUM**

19. G identifies the medium of the action specified by S.


**MANNER**

20. G identifies the manner in which S is done.

Romans 8:25 [G=?]

**MODE**

21. G identifies the mode of the action specified by S.


**METHOD or TECHNIQUE**

22. G identifies the method or technique employed to perform the action specified by S.

Acts 8:18 [G=?]; Romans 16:18 [G=?]
INSTRUMENTALITY

23. G identifies the instrument employed to perform the action specified by S.

1 Corinthians 13:12 [G=?]; 1 Corinthians 14:9 [G=?]; 2 Corinthians 5:10 [G=?]

**Used to denote an ATTRIBUTE**

24. G identifies a quality or attribute of some event specified by S.

2 Corinthians 3:11 [G=?]

**Used to denote the CONTENT of something**

25. G identifies the content or substance of some thing specified by S.

Romans 5:5 [G=?]; Romans 5:21 [G=?]; Romans 10:17 [G=?]

**Used to denote WHAT IS TRANSVERSED**

**SPACE TRANSVERSED**

26. G identifies the route that is transversed by the movement specified by S.


27. G identifies the sort of thing that is transversed by the movement specified by S.

28. διά ὅλον indicates extent through the whole of some space or region with respect to something; hence it is usually translated as “entirely” or “throughout”.


TIME TRANSVERSED

29. G identifies the extent of time that is transversed by the movement specified by S.


30. G identifies the nature of the sort of time that is transversed by the movement specified by S.


31. διά πάντοτε indicates duration through the whole of time with respect to something; hence it is usually translated “continually” or “unceasingly”.