ὅτι   ἐν   αὐτῷ   ἐκτίσθη
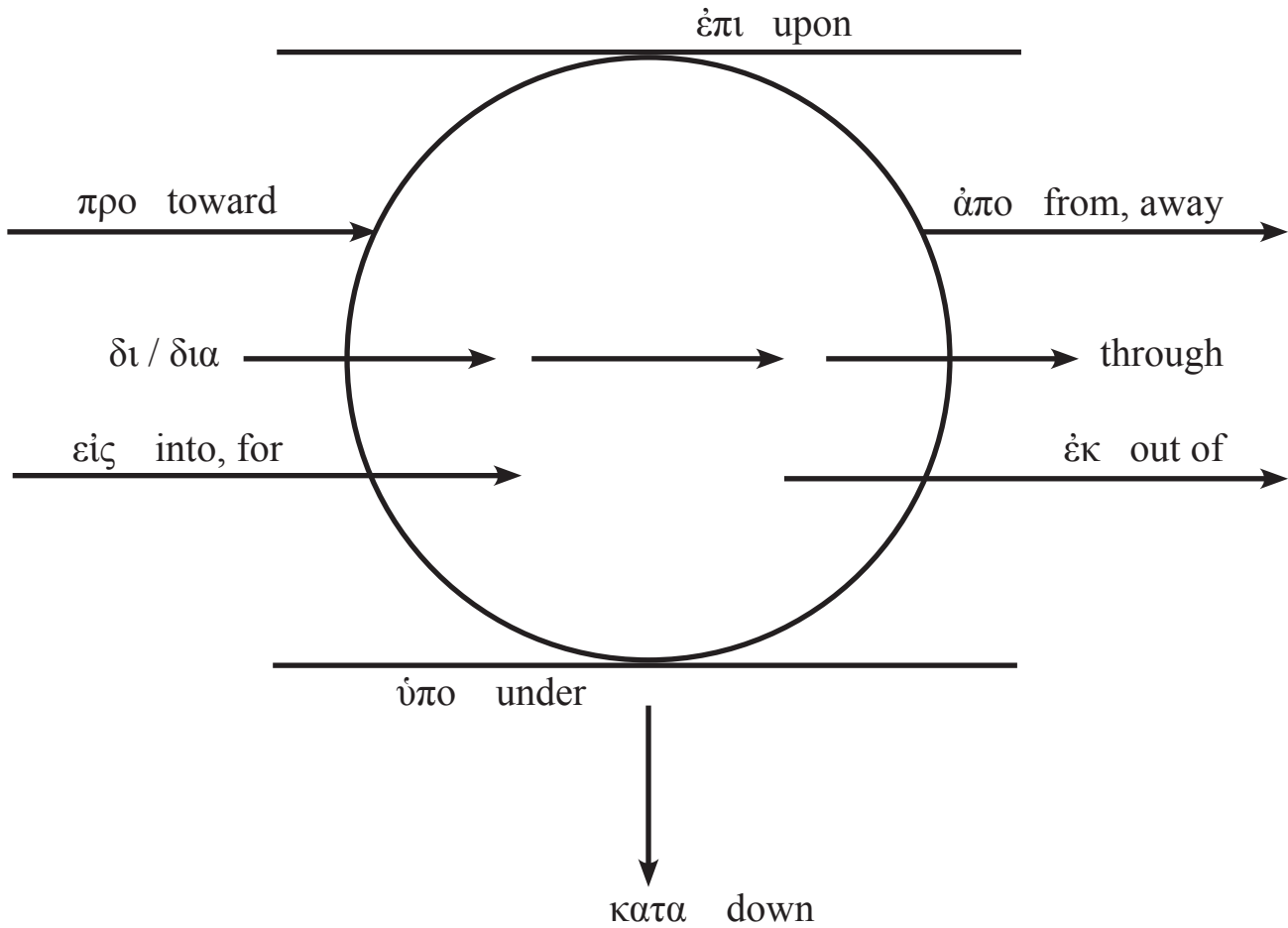HOTI   IN   AUTO   EKTISTHE

τὰ   πάντα
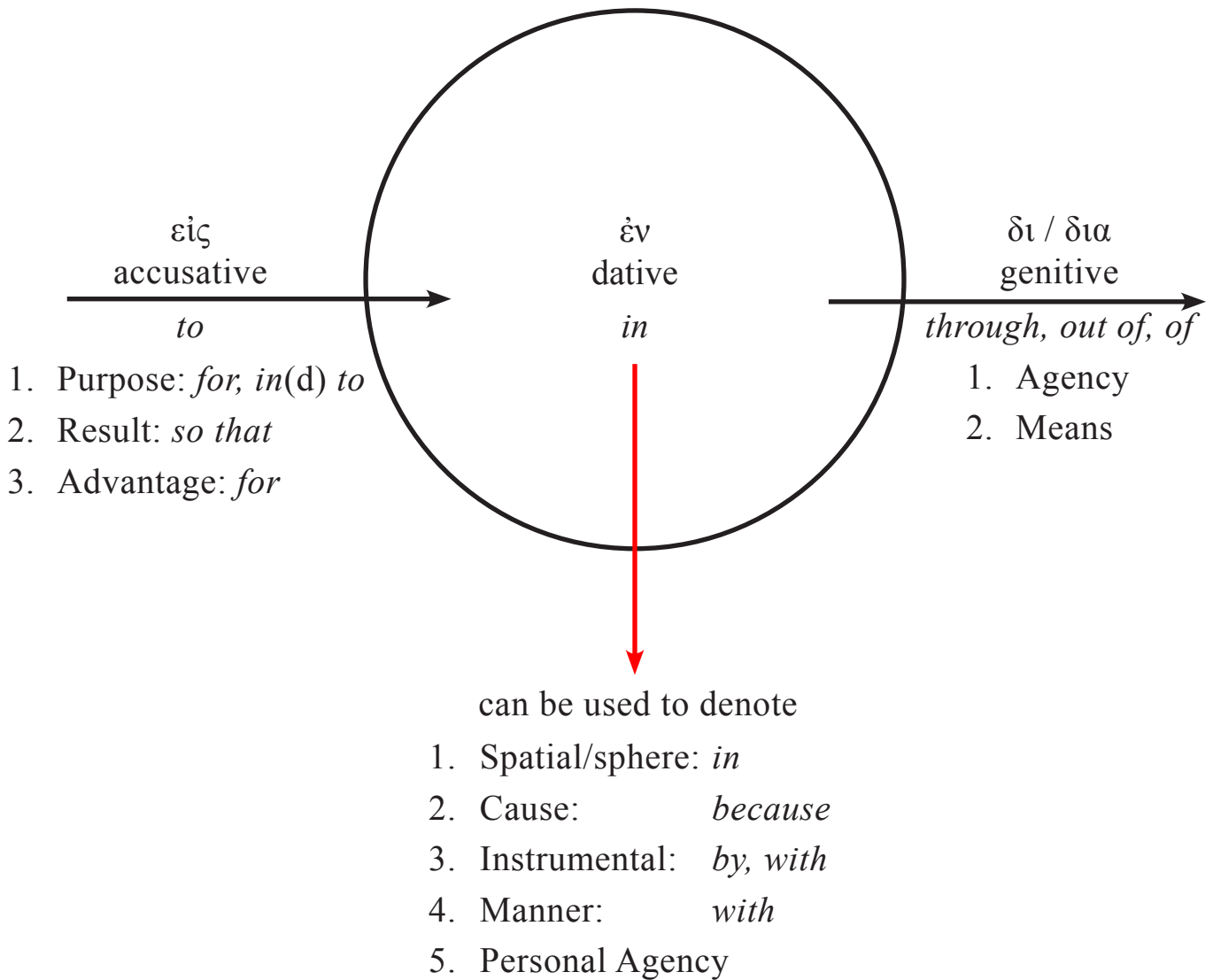TA   PANTA

Strong's Concordance # 3754
   that, because, since

1) the substance or contents of a statement, used at the beginning of a sentence much like English "quotation marks"

2) in elliptical formulas

3) the reason why anything is said to be or to be done (because, since, for that, for); causal conjuntion

4) it is added to a speaker's words to show what ground he/she gives for his/her opinion

Used as the first word of Colossians 1:16, it assigns the reason or justifies what was previously stated about Christ as "firstborn."

ἐπι   upon

προ   toward

ἀπο   from, away

δι / δια   through

εἰς   into, for   ἐκ   out of

ὑπο   under

κατα   down

εἰς
accusative

to

1. Purpose: *for, in*(d) *to*
2. Result: *so that*
3. Advantage: *for*

ἐν
dative

in

δι / δια
genitive

through, out of, of

1. Agency
2. Means

can be used to denote

1. Spatial/sphere: *in*
2. Cause: *because*
3. Instrumental: *by, with*
4. Manner: *with*
5. Personal Agency

Greek Text   Colossians 1:16

In   Him

ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα

ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς

τὰ ὁρατὰ καὶ τὰ ἀόρατα εἴτε θρόνοι

εἴτε κυριότητες εἴτε ἀρχαὶ εἴτε

through   Him

ἐξουσίαι τὰ πάντα δι᾽ αὐτοῦ

καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν ἔκτισται

to   Him

4

ἐν αὐτῷ ⟶ Preposition
Dative

⟶ Pronoun Dative MS

In   Him

δι' αὐτοῦ ⟶ Preposition
Genitive

⟶ Pronoun Genitive MS

through Him

εἰς αὐτὸν ⟶ Preposition
Accusative

⟶ Pronoun Accusative MS

unto/to Him

Ἐν is the workhorse of prepositions in the New Testament. It occurs 2,752 times, more frequently and more varied than any other.

We can examine ἐν as:

1) Spatial / sphere: in

2) Temporal: in, within, when, while, during

3) Association: with

4) Cause: because of

5) Instrumental: by, with

6) Reference / Respect: with reference to, with respect to

7) Manner: with

8) Thing possessed: with

9) Standard: according (to the standard)

10) As an equivalent for εἰς with verbs of motion.