**Kata**

A. The preposition *kata* (κατά) appears frequently in classical Greek and over 450 times in the NT.

B. This is the 7th time that we have come across this preposition in the Philippian epistle (1:12, 20; 2:3; 3:5, 6, 14).

C. Its use in a sentence is best determined by its immediate grammatical context.

D. There is no doubt the etymology of this preposition since it appears as κατά, and in Aracadian and Cypriote Greek it has the form κατά.

E. It is probably in the instrumental case, but an apparently dative form κατά survives a few times.

F. The root meaning is “down” as seen from the writings of Homer to the NT, but there are other usages which are more frequent.

G. The greatest majority of examples of *kata* in the NT are in the accusative case.

H. On the whole, the NT use of the accusative with *kata* corresponds pretty closely to the classic idiom

I. The primary, local meaning of *kata* seems to have been either “down (from or upon)” (expressing vertical extension) or (less probably) “along while remaining in contact with” (expressing horizontal extension).

J. Often the noun that follows *kata* specifies the criterion, standard or norm in the light of which a statement is made or is true, an action is performed, or a judgement is passed.

K. The preposition will mean “according to”, “in conformity with”, “corresponding to”.

L. Liddel and Scott lists the following meanings (pages 882-884):

1. With genitive
   a. Denoting motion from above, down from
   b. Denoting downward motion
   c. Down upon or over
   d. Down into
   e. Towards
   f. Of vows or oaths
   g. In a hostile sense, against
   h. Of time, for

2. With accusative
   a. Of motion
      (1) Downwards
      (2) With or without significant motion, on, over, throughout a space
      (3) Opposite, over against
      (4) Distributively,
      (5) of a whole divided into parts
   b. Of time
   c. Of numbers, by so many at a time
   d. Of numbers, by so many at a time, one at a time, individually
   e. Of direction, towards an object or purpose, on a business, for or after a matter, to rove in search of a body, for the purpose of seeing
   f. Of pursuit
   g. Of fitness or conformity,
      (1) in accordance with
      (2) In relation to, concerning
   h. In comparisons, corresponding with, after the fashion of
   i. By the favor of a god
   j. Of round numbers
   k. Of time,
      (1) during or in the course of a period
      (2) About
      (3) this
   l. Periphrastically

M. *Kata* in composition means:

1. Downwards, down
2. In answer to, in accordance with
3. Against in the hostile
4. Back, back again

N. Frequently only to strengthen the notion of the simple word and sometimes to give a transitive force to an intransitive verb.

O. Implying waste or consumption and generally in a disparaging sense.

P. Bauer, Gingrich and Danker list the following (A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, pages 405-406):

1. With the genitive
   a. Of place
   b. Down from something
   c. Into something
   d. Throughout
   e. Figurative down upon, toward, against or something
   f. With verbs of swearing, to denote what one swears by
   g. In a hostile sense: against, after verbs that express hostile action; after words and expressions that designate hostile speech especially an accusation; after expressions which designate such a position or state of mind in a different way

2. With the accusative
   a. Of place
   b. Of extension in space along, over, through, in, upon
   c. Of direction toward, to, up to
   d. Serves to isolate or separate by
   e. As a distributive
   f. Of time
   g. In definite indications of time: at, on, during
   h. With indefinite indications of time: toward, about
   i. Distributively
   j. Distributively and time indicating the division of a greater whole into individual parts
   k. Of goal, purpose for the purpose of, for, to
   l. Of the norm, of similarity, homogeneity according to, in accordance with, in conformity with, corresponding to
   m. To introduce the norm which governs something
   n. Of equality, similarity, example in accordance with, just as, similar(ly) to
   o. To indicate the nature, kind, peculiarity or characteristics of a thing (frequently as a periphrasis for the adverb)
   p. Denoting relationship to something, with respect to, in relation to, with respect to
   q. As an adjective or acts as the periphrasis of a possessive pronoun or of a genitive. It stands for
   r. An adjective
   s. Possessive pronoun
   t. The genitive of a noun

Q. The New Thayers Greek-English Lexicon lists the following (pages 326-328):

1. With the genitive
   a. Down from, down
   b. Down upon (down into) something
   c. Used of motion or extension through a space from top to bottom; hence through, throughout
   d. Metaphorically
   e. After verbs of swearing, adjuring, (the hand being as it were, placed down upon the thing sworn by, by
   f. Against, with regard to, of; after verbs of accusing, rebelling, fighting, prevailing

2. With the accusative
   a. Of place
   b. Of the place through which anything is done or is extended
   c. Of the place to which one is brought (down)
   d. Of direction; towards
   e. Of the place where
   f. Of that which so joins itself to one thing as to separate itself from another; our for, by
   g. Of time; during, about
   h. It denotes reference, relation, proportion, of various sorts
Distributively, indicating a succession of things following one another

As respects; with regard to; in reference to; so far as relates to; as concerning

According to, agreeably to; in reference to agreement or conformity to a standard, in various ways; according to anything as a standard, agreeably to, in proportion to, according to the measure of; used of the cause; through, on account of, from, owing to; of likeness; as, like as; of the mode in which a thing is done; of the quality;

i. Of the end aimed at; the goal to which anything tends

R. Louw and Nida list the following (Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains volume 2):
1. Extension to a goal, normally down – ‘down, down to, downward’ (page 723)
2. Extension along a path or road implying movement – ‘along, on’ (page 724).
3. Extension in every direction throughout an area – ‘throughout’ (page 724).
4. The position of an object oriented toward a particular direction – ‘facing, toward’ (page 719).
5. A variety of positions distributed throughout an area or among a number of objects – ‘throughout, among’ (page 714).
6. A position directly opposite and implying some space between – ‘opposite, off, offshore from’ (page 719).
7. Marker of a point of time which is simultaneous to or overlaps with another point of time – ‘when, at the time of’ (page 633).
8. Marker of a point of time, which is approximately simultaneous to another point of time – ‘about’ (page 634).
9. (with the genitive) a marker of a supernatural person or force called upon to guarantee the carrying out of an oath or vow – ‘by, in the name of’ (page 802).
10. (with the genitive) a marker of opposition, with the possible implication of antagonism – ‘against, in opposition to, in conflict with’ (page 802).
11. A marker of a relation involving similarity of process – ‘in accordance with, an relation to’ (page 778).
12. A marker of distributive relations, whether of place, time, or number – ‘throughout, from… to,… after’ (page 789).
13. A marker of a specific element bearing a relation to something else – ‘in relation to, with regard to’ (page 778).
14. A marker of association, involving common, cultural, or ethnic elements – ‘with, among’ (page 792).

S. Kohler lists the following meaning and usages with the accusative case (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament volume 2, pages 253-254):
1. Of place: throughout, over, in, at
2. Of time: during
3. Figuratively
4. Distributive: only, after, like
5. Final: for the purpose of, for, according to, corresponding to
6. Of homogeneity, similarity, correspondence, manner: according to, in accordance with, corresponding to, like
7. Of reason: on the basis of, because, from
8. Of direction or relationship: with respect to, in relation to
9. As an alternative for an attributive or possessive genitive

T. Dana and Mantey list the following (A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament page 107):
1. Resultant meanings
   a. With the ablative case: down from
   b. With the genitive case: down upon, down, against, throughout, by
   c. With the accusative case: along, at, according to; distributive sense: from, by
2. Remote meanings:
   a. With reference to, with respect to, pertaining to
   b. In
   c. Before

U. Wallace lists the following basic usages (Wallace, Daniel B., Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics - Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament):
1. With Genitive
   a. Spatial: down from, throughout
   b. Opposition: against
2. With Accusative
   a. Standard: in accordance with, corresponding to
   b. Spatial: along, through (extension); toward, up to (direction)
   c. Temporal: at, during
   d. Distributive: “indicating the division of a greater whole into individual parts”
   e. Purpose: for the purpose of
   f. Reference/Respect: with respect to, with reference to