THE ACADEMY'S PROBLEMATIC WORLD-VIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE 1	
PART 1 - SOME OF THE ACADEMY'S ARTICLES OF FAITH	
Section 1A – Atheism	. 3
Section 1B – Evolutionism	. 3
Subsection 1B-1 – Universe's logical structure & orderly behavior	. 3
Subsection 1B-2 – Life's nature & origin	
Subsection 1B-3 – Information in the genome	. 4
Subsection 1B-4 – Irreducible complexity	. 5
Subsection 1B-5 – Missing links are still missing!	
Subsection 1B-6 – Chance of evolution occurring	. 6
Subsection 1B-7 – Evolution's lack of enough time	. 7
Subsection 1B-8 - Illogical affirmation of contradictory views	. 7
Subsection 1B-9 - Self-organizing capacity is a mirage	. 8
Subsection 1B-10 – Evolution's key moment is unexplained	. 9
Subsection 1B-11 – How did evolution vanquish entropy?	10
Section 1C – Uniformitarianism	11
Section 1D – The unreliability of the Ancients	12
Section 1E – Manetho's chronology of Egypt	15
Section 1F – The future of Mankind	16
PART 2 - THE ACADEMY'S VIEW OF THE PAST 16	
Section 2A – The Academy's origin of Universe	16
Section 2B – The Academy's origin of life	17
Section 2C – The Academy's natural history	18
Section 2E – The Academy's human history	19
Section 2F – The Academy's view of Man	20

PREAMBLE

The Academy is a term that I use to refer to the majority of current scientists and scholars today, who share a number of important characteristics:

- <u>They are atheists or agnostics</u>, as opposed to theists, let alone Christians. They reject the reality of a metaphysical realm and maintain that reality consists solely of the physical or material realm. This stance generally leads to Secular Humanism and the feeling that Mankind is his own God and is becoming ever more intelligent and in control of Earth and perhaps even Universe someday.
- <u>They are evolutionists</u>, as opposed to creationists. They reject the possibility that anything natural has been designed by a mind, and therefore they maintain that everything in in Universe, from things in the macrocosm to things the microcosm, is evolving i.e. it is the product of an unseen and undefined force which is producing ever greater order, complexity, functionality, etc. This force is often called "the self-organizing capacity." Today, evolutionists predominate in every field of scientific investigation, from cosmology to astrophysics to geophysics to geology to biology to microbiology.
- <u>They are uniformitarians</u>, as opposed to catastrophists. They reject most of the Ancients' descriptions of unusual events in the past like a global flood, a parting of the waters of the Red Sea, the Sun standing still in the sky, and people healing others of malformities, disabilities, and diseases, and, in particular, raising people from the dead. They believe that the past was subject to exactly the same processes that we see at work today e.g. because erosion occurs very slowly today, they believe that the creation of the Grand Canyon required millions of years.

In college, I adopted all three of the above characteristics. I had confidence in and respected my professors at Yale, and I wanted to be a member of the *cognoscenti*. Thus I abandoned the beliefs and attitudes of my youth without a lot of careful thought. In an essay entitled *Reflections* that I wrote for my 25th Reunion at Yale, I said, "During my childhood, in which I was blessed, I was taught about God and developed a profound interest in and reverence for His creation. I looked with awe upon the pageantry of the flowers in the spring, the beauty of the mountain lakes in summer, the majesty of the harvest moon among the stars in autumn, and the complexity of the frost crystals on my bedroom window panes in winter. During my college years, however, my attention turned to the works of man: the ratiocinations of the philosophers, the theories and equations of the scientists, and the art and architecture of the masters. How great is man, I thought, that he can understand and improve upon the cosmos, and I strode purposefully and pridefully into the cathedral of humanism. Unknown to me was the warning of the Scriptures: 'Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ' (Colossians 2:8)."

In 1980, I did a *volte face* and began giving more careful thought to the ideas that I had so carelessly adopted while being an undergraduate at Yale (1955-1959). Not surprisingly, I began to see some major problems with the Academy's atheistic, evolutionary, and uniformitarian faith.

PART 1 - SOME OF THE ACADEMY'S ARTICLES OF FAITH

In this part, I will identify a cluster of beliefs which are held by an increasingly number of the Academy's members and tend to form their view of the world.

Section 1A – Atheism

The Academy's first and most important article of faith is that there is no God. Apart from the fact that this article contradicts God's Word (see Genesis 1:1), I believe that it also contradicts experience. I doubt that any person who has ever lived has not, at one time or another, sensed a divine hand at work when he or she absorbs the wonder of a glorious sunrise on the eastern horizon, a strong man wielding an axe, a beautiful woman skating gracefully, little children gamboling in a field covered with new-fallen snow or green grass and wild-flowers, a newborn babe smiling, a gaggle of Canada geese in flight, far up in the sky and reflecting the golden rays of a setting sun, a stallion galloping along an ocean beach, a cloud of fireflies blinking at dusk, a mountainside covered with maples trees in late autumn, a rainbow trout bursting through the placid surface of an Adirondack lake, a spectacular sunset over the Pacific Ocean, a harvest moon hanging low in the sky, and an array of twinkling stars on a cold and moonless winter night. I am confident every reader can add a thousand such experiences to my brief list.

Nonetheless, their rejection of the existence of God leads them to reject the idea of a metaphysical realm, and they insist that everything in Universe must be explained solely by physical cause and effect, even though that has proved to be impossible in some cases, such as divining the nature of *life*, the nature of *consciousness*, and the nature of the *mind*. Lacking explanations of such things, they comfort themselves with the questionable belief that explanations of them will ultimately appear because, they believe, that science's ability to explain Universe is unlimited.

Lastly, I must mention another reason for denying the existence of a God which is not unique to members of the Academy. Many people deny God's existence because they wish to avoid having to acknowledge the right of a Creator to set standards of behavior for them and then judge their behavior by those standards. Thus they oppose almost anything that substantiates what the Bible says about God, what God has done, what God plans to do, what God expects from us, how God will judge us after death, and where God will send us in the afterlife.

<u>Section 1B – Evolutionism</u>

The Academy's second article of faith is that evolutionism can explain transitions in both inanimate and animate matter from one form or state to another form or state, usually slowly and often passing through many intermediate forms or states. There are a number of serious problems with this theory that, in my opinion, render it an untenable hypothesis.

Subsection 1B-1 – Universe's logical structure & orderly behavior

First, evolution cannot explain the logic and constancy of Universe's behavior. The conduct of science depends upon the un-provable assumption that the cosmos is logically structured and

Introductory Documents by	John Holbrook Jr. ©
12-The Academy – Draft 2021-1	

behaves in an orderly and predictable manner. That is a rational assumption if one believes that a God of order and goodwill created and governs the cosmos. It is an irrational assumption, however, if one believes that the cosmos evolved by chance, for there is then no reason to believe that its laws will not change in the next minute. Not surprisingly, the era of theistic science (the 18th and early 19th centuries) was characterized by confidence, clarity, and coherence, whereas the age of atheistic science (the late 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries) has been increasingly characterized by anxiety, confusion, and unreason.¹

Subsection 1B-2 – Life's nature & origin

Second, **evolution cannot explain life, let alone its origin**. Supposedly inorganic material transitioned into organic material in the prebiotic soup. What happened? How? Biologists do not have a clue.

Subsection 1B-3 – Information in the genome

Third, **evolution cannot explain the presence of information in the genetic code.** Many people conflate order and information, but a sequence of letters can be orderly without conveying information – e.g. EILOOUVY, which is a sequence of letters in alphabetical order, but conveys nothing. The same letters can be rearranged to convey information – e.g. I LOVE YOU, which is a sequence of letters that conveys an emotion which is (a) important to the sender and, he hopes, (b) equally important to the receiver. There are also sequences of letters which determine the production of other sequences, but do not require a receiver – e.g. DNA, which governs the development of an organism from elements to a form of life. Both types of information are contained within information theory, which has produced a number of rules. For example:

- There is no known law of nature, no known process, and no known sequence of events that can cause information to originate in matter by itself.
- When progress along the chain of transmission events is traced backward, every piece of information leads to a mental source, the mind of the sender.

Information requires a mind. Although mind and brain are obviously connected, no one has yet explained how. What has been determined, however, is that the brain does not produce information. The brain is a product of information – DNA – not vice versa. Information preceded

¹ For example: Classical Darwinism postulates that differing classes of living creatures are the descendants of longextinct common ancestors, and that transitional forms linked each group to those ancestors. The problem: the transitional forms cannot be found. To plug the gaps, so to speak, paleontologists Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould proposed a modification of classical Darwinism called "punctuated equilibrium" in which a new species can appear fully developed, thereby eliminating the need for intermediate forms. To repeat myself: That is equivalent to saying: The theory of evolution predicts transitional forms, but transitional forms are lacking. Since we know that evolution produced the species that we see, evolution must operate without transitional forms. Under such illogic, the theory of evolution cannot be proved wrong. That is not science. It is unreason.

the development of brains. From whence did that information come? From whose mind?²

Subsection 1B-4 – Irreducible complexity

Fourth, **evolution cannot explain how to get around irreducible complexity.** In his book, <u>Darwin's Black Box</u>, Michael Behe describes irreducible complexity as follows,

By *irreducibly complex* I mean a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of those parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning. An irreducibly complex system cannot be produced directly (that is, by continuously improving the initial function, which continues to work by the same mechanism) by slight, successive modifications of a precursor system, because any precursor to an irreducibly complex system that is missing a part is by definition nonfunctional.³

For example: the eye. According to the Darwinian theory of evolution, an unseeing eye developed into a seeing eye by small, incremental changes over a long period of time. How could that happen? First, the eye consists of a multitude of highly complex cells serving different functions. How would even the component parts of the eye develop when they had to achieve a high level of complexity before they could begin to function. Darwin himself wrote: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."⁴ Indeed, modern microbiology has demonstrated just that. Second, an unseeing eye would be a liability to an organism, not an asset, and therefore it would have a negative survival value. Organisms with no eyes would be more fit than organisms with unseeing eyes, through which a predator would have direct access to the brain.

Subsection 1B-5 – Missing links are still missing!

Fifth, **evolution lacks evidence to support it**. Disregarding the use of evolution by cosmologists, consider its use by biologists. Macro-evolution requires missing links, but they are still *missing*!

In his <u>On the Origin of Species...</u>,⁵ which appeared in 1859, Charles Darwin was notably clear about one of the requirements of his new theory. It needs transitional forms that link different species in the present with common ancestors in the past in a continuous chain of life that becomes ever narrower as it moves backward until it reaches the first organism. He noted that such forms had not yet been found and that such forms must be found to prove his theory correct. He was confident, of course that such forms would be found.

 $^{^{2}}$ The answer, of course, is God, who possesses an unlimited mind, but no brain. Brains only exist within the bodies of Universe's creatures.

³ Michael J. Behe, <u>Darwin's Black Box</u>, The Free Press, New York, 1996, p. 39.

⁴ Charles Darwin, Origin of Species (1872, 6th ed. 1988), New York University Press, New York NY, p. 154.

⁵ Darwin, Charles, <u>On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races</u> <u>in the Struggle for Life</u> (published by John Murray of London in the next year, 1859).

Well, the missing links in the evolutionary chain of being have not been found, even after over 150 years of intense looking. Indeed, they are completely lacking - a fact which is a constant source of frustration for evolutionary biologists and paleontologists and causes many of them to claim that one of their finds – or, in some cases, one of their artifacts like Piltdown Man - represent a missing link.

This lack of missing links is not a trivial matter. For example: Darwin himself wrote, "Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely-graduated organic chain; and this is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory." ⁶ The celebrated paleontologist and Harvard professor Stephen J. Gould revealed, "The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology." ⁷ *National Geographic* admitted, "Illuminating but spotty, the fossil record is like a film of evolution from which 999 out of 1,000 frames have been lost." ⁸ Richard Dawkins also admitted, "Evolution has been observed. It's just that it hasn't been observed while it's happening" – an admission that was regarded by many as "letting the cat out of the bag." ⁹

Subsection 1B-6 – Chance of evolution occurring

Sixth, evolution is so unlikely as to be impossible. James Coppedge, Director of Probability Research in Biology at Northridge, California, calculated the odds of a single molecule of insulin, the simplest protein with only 51 amino acids in its DNA, forming by chance in the last 3.5 billion years.¹⁰ Giving chance every benefit, he determined the odds as 1 in 10⁵⁴. Now 10⁵⁴ is a large number, greater than the number of grains of sand on the earth. Nonetheless, it is still comprehensible. Coppedge also calculated the odds of a minimum set of proteins, with 400 amino acids in its DNA, forming by chance in the same period as 1 in $10^{119,775}$.¹¹ This last number is incomprehensible. Moreover, Pierre Lecomte du Nouy states: "If the probability of an event is infinitely slight, it is equivalent to the practical impossibility of its happening within certain time limits. The theoretical possibility can be so small that it is equivalent to the quasicertitude of the contrary."¹² Emile Borel, a mathematician, is even more blunt: "Events whose probability is extremely small never occur."¹³ Thus, mathematical analysis indicates that the origin of life cannot be ascribed to chance. There are currently attempts underway to explain the development of forms, including those of living structures, with topological tools, specifically "catastrophe theory,"¹⁴ but few scientists are persuaded by the results thus far, and overlooked is any explanation of how a self-organizing Universe might have acquired its self-organizing capacity.

⁶ C. Darwin, Origin of Species, 6th ed., London, 1872, p. 413 - reprinted by John Murray, 1902.

⁷ S.J. Gould, "Evolution's Erratic Pace," *Natural History*, **86**(5):14, 1977.

⁸ "Was Darwin Wrong? No!," National Geographic, Nov. 2004, Page 25.

⁹ Transcript @ pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript349_full.html#dawkins, Dec, 3, 2004.

 ¹⁰ James F. Coppedge, <u>Evolution: Possible or Impossible?</u>, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1973, p. 103.
¹¹ <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 111.

¹² Lecomte du Nuoy, Pierre, <u>Human Destiny</u>, Longmans, Green & Company, New York, 1947, p. 30.

¹³ Emil Borel, <u>Elements of the Theory of Probability</u>, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1965, p. 57, as cited in James F. Coppedge, <u>op. cit.</u>, p. 166.

¹⁴ Alexander Woodcock and Monte Davis, <u>Catastrophe Theory</u>, Avon Books, New York, 1978; and Erich Jantsch, <u>The Self-Organizing Universe</u>, Pergamon Press, New York, 1980.

Subsection 1B-7 – Evolution's lack of enough time

Seventh, **evolution lacks enough time**. For example, the Carbon-14 isotope has been found in almost every ancient substance, such as coal, petroleum, diamonds, fossils, etc. Its half-life is 5,736 years, and it would decay to an imperceptible amount in 100,000 years. Thus, all these substances are less than 100,000 years old – even within the current geologic timeframe, which is wrong because, as I pointed out above, it is based on uniformitarianism rather than catastrophism. Yet evolution assumes the availability of billions of years to allow life to develop from a single solitary cell to all the life forms which we see today.

Subsection 1B-8 - Illogical affirmation of contradictory views

Eighth, evolution requires its proponents to hold two contradictory views at the same time.

On the one hand, evolutionary scientists today affirm what I will call *universal evolution*. The original contents of Universe consisted of a sub-atomic soup that slowly congealed into the four forms of matter that we see today: solids, liquids, gases, and plasma. This material then slowly congealed into astronomical objects like asteroids, meteorites, moons, planets, stars, solar systems, and galaxies. Then the material on the surface of planets like Earth formed pre-biotic soups which eventually produced organic cells which then split into more cells. These cells kept splitting and developing into more complex organic compounds, which then developed into early sea creatures. Then some of these sea-creatures (fish, crabs, etc.) developed the ability to crawl out of the sea onto land, where some of them developed the capability to fly (birds) and others developed the ability to walk around (animals). The latter then slowly evolved into multiple species, including primates. The primates then slowly evolved into apes, and the apes finally evolved into men and women.

On the other hand, most scientists today affirm what I will call *universal devolution*. Over the millennia, close observers of Universe have identified what appears to be invariable phenomena, and they have codified a series of laws based on these observations.

• <u>The 1st Law of Thermodynamics</u> – This law, also known as the Law of the Conservation of Energy, states essentially that the total amount of energy in any closed system or domain¹⁵ remains constant over time. Within the system, energy can neither increase nor decrease. Note that energy here is used comprehensively and includes mass, which is

¹⁵ An <u>isolated or closed system</u> contains a finite, constant amount of energy. There can be no transfer of energy between it and its surrounding environment. Most scientists consider Universe to be an isolated or closed system in which the amount of energy in it remains constant. Moreover, they believe that it lacks a surrounding environment – i.e. nothing exists outside of it. That means that Universe must be finite, which I regard as correct (elsewhere I argue that *infinity* is an operational concept and possesses no referent in the non-verbal, physical world). Nonetheless, some scientists talk and write about Universe being infinite, but I do not know how they adjust their understanding of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics accordingly.

interchangeable with energy in accordance with Einstein's formula e=mc² (where "e" equals energy, "m" equals mass, and "c" equals the speed of light).

• <u>The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics</u> – This law essentially states that any isolated system spontaneously moves toward thermodynamic equilibrium, at which point all movement within the system ceases. In the case of Universe as a whole, the state of thermodynamic equilibrium is the point at which Universe becomes inert and therefore dead – often referred to as its *Heat Death*.

Most scientists believe that this law does not apply to open (non-isolated systems), such as organisms, providing its heat loss is matched by its environment's heat gain in the same amount, so that the total amount of energy is in Universe remains constant. Some scientists, however, disagree. Dr. John Ross of Harvard University writes, "... there are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics. Ordinarily the second law is stated for isolated systems, but the second law applies equally well to open systems. ... There is somehow associated with the field of far-from-equilibrium thermodynamics the notion that the second law of thermodynamics fails for such systems. It is important to make sure that this error does not perpetuate itself." ¹⁶

Considered separately, the theories of evolution and devolution may make a lot of sense to someone, but when considered together, they seriously conflict. Something cannot be evolving and devolving at the same time. Something is seriously wrong with the Academy's big picture.

Subsection 1B-9 - Self-organizing capacity is a mirage

Ninth, calling certain types of Universe's behavior "laws" merely creates tautologies.

Recently Adrian Bejan¹⁷ introduced another wrinkle into the situation. He argues that the two principles of thermodynamics, the First Law governing the conservation of energy and the Second Law governing the tendency of temperature, pressure, etc. to flow from high to low (often called entropy), need to be supplemented by a Third Law governing the tendency of things that flow to create configurations that enable them to flow more easily and quickly. He asserts that his Constructal Law explains, not only the designs in nature, but why they emerge and how they will evolve in the future.

Lest any believer in a creator take heart from what he is proposing, he issues a severe warning:

Of course, there is no conscious intelligence behind these patterns, no Divine Architect churning out brilliant blueprints. To prevent confusion, let me make this perfectly clear: The constructal law is not headed toward a creationist argument, and in in no way does it support the claims of those who promulgate

¹⁶ Dr. John Ross, *Chemical and Engineering News*, 7 July 1980, p. 40.

¹⁷ Bejan, Adrian & Zane, J. Peder, <u>Design in Nature – How the Constructal Law Governs Evolution in Biology</u>, <u>Physics, Technology, and Social Organization</u>, Doubleday, New York, 2012.

the fantasy of intelligent design. Anyone who takes excerpts from this book to suggest that I am arguing for a spiritual sense of "designedness" is engaging in an intentional act of dishonesty.¹⁸

First, I do not think Bejan has much to worry about. I cannot imagine anyone who reads his book with any care, which I did from cover to cover, would miss the fact that he is opposed to any view which gives God a hand in the creation and functioning of Universe.

Second, I think there is a bigger problem here than the danger of someone using the Constructal Law to argue for the existence of God. I regard attributing the way things behave to the requirements of a law is nonsense. Where is the law written? Is it carved on a stone tablet somewhere? If it is, how does it get enforced? I know that the Constructal Law exists as an abstract concept in Bejan's mind, on the pages of his book, and in the minds of his readers, but (a) where is the non-verbal, concrete referent of that concept and (b) how does it control the evolution of other non-verbal, concrete entities like rivers, trees, and creatures?

Third, I cannot find any evidence that Bejan has given any thought to how Universe acquired its self-organizing capacity, which is the general idea behind his Constructal Law, let alone its rigorous conservation of energy (the First Law of Thermodynamics) and its entropic tendency (the Second Law of Thermodynamics). Have these phenomena just happened – whatever that means?

If Universe's Creator is omitted from the discussion, these aspects of Universe's behavior will remain mysteries. Calling them "laws" just dresses them up a bit. Moreover, I would emphasize a couple of things about them, which cannot be repeated often enough. First, concepts such as the three laws above are abstractions and exist solely in the minds of intelligent beings. Note: human concepts cannot be reified. Only divine concept can be reified.¹⁹ Second, the Bible tells us that God-the-Son is responsible for making and managing Universe in accordance with God-the-Father's design and script, and He sustains and controls Universe with the Power of His Word. In fact, the so-called laws of human science merely describe God's normal way of doing things.

Subsection 1B-10 – Evolution's key moment is unexplained

Tenth, the key moment in biological evolution is the instant when inorganic material transitioned into organic material in the prebiotic soup. What happened? I have yet to run across an answer to this question. I suspect that evolutionary biologists cannot answer the question because they still cannot explain *life* itself, let alone how it suddenly appeared. Moreover, I suspect that science will never understand such things as life, consciousness, mind,

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 14.

¹⁹ God-the-Father produced the Design and Script for Universe, both of which are conceptual. God-the-Son translated the Design for Universe into reality during Creation Week, and He has been translating the Script for Universe into reality ever since, both of which are now actual - i.e. concrete, objective, real. Humans must treat them as such.

spirit, etc. They will remain mysterious to all but the Creator – the very *Divine Architect* whose existence Bajan emphatically denounces.

<u>Subsection 1B-11 – How did evolution vanquish entropy?</u>

Eleventh, **once life did appear, how did it overcome entropy**? I must remind you that entropy is the tendency of everything in Universe that is inert to become disorderly, decay, and disintegrate and everything in Universe that is alive to get sick and die. Yet, cosmological evolutionists maintain that (a) inorganic material in interstellar space (possibly debris resulting from the Big Bang) organized itself into moons, planets, solar systems, galaxies, etc. and (b) organic material (as I noted above, itself the product of an inexplicable, spontaneous transformation of material from an inert state to an animate state) organized itself into tiny sea creatures, then fish, birds, animals, and finally man. Moreover, if you look up into the heavens, you see a myriad of signs that the stars are dissipating their energy into the space around them, and if you look down at the earth, you see all flora and fauna getting sick and dying. To me, entropy looks like it is alive and well, but evolution looks like it is sick and dying.

Dr. John C. Sanford is a plant geneticist who has written extensively on genetics and co-invented the "Biolistic Particle Delivery System" or so-called "gene gun," Pathogen-derived Resistance (PDR) process, and the genetic vaccination process. He begins his book, <u>Genetic Entropy</u>,²⁰ with the observation that,

Modern Darwinism is fundamentally built upon what I will call 'The Primary Axiom.' The Primary Axiom is that man is the product of *random mutations* plus *natural selection*. Within our society's academia, the Primary Axiom is universally taught, and almost universally accepted."

During the course of the book, Sanford establishes that the human genome consists of information, and he observes on page 153 that,

Information theory clearly indicates that information and information systems arises only through intelligent means and are only preserved by intelligence (Gitt, 1997 ²¹).

On the next page, Sanford argues that,

It is the fundamental nature of information to degenerate. This reality is reflected all around us, from the illustration of the room full of whisperers, to systems involving a chain of command, to the routine crashing of our computers. The reason our information systems do not degenerate even *more* rapidly is because of elaborate, intelligently-designed systems created to stabilize and preserve that information. Yet even the best designed information systems, apart from intelligent maintenance and the continual intervention of intelligence, will always eventually break down. Computers are typically junk within five years.

At the end of his book, Sanford claims that,

²⁰ Sanford, Dr. John C., <u>Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome</u> (2005), FMS Foundation, Waterloo NY, 3rd edition, 2008.

²¹ Undoubtedly Gitt, Werner, <u>In the Beginning Was Information</u>, CLV, Bielefeld, Germany, 1997

There is only one empirical and definitive method to objectively analyze neo-Darwin Theory. The method is called "numerical simulation." In real populations, millions of mutations are segregating simultaneously. This makes the mutation/selection process amazingly complex. Because of this complexity, the only way to understand the process is to systematically track every mutation that occurs within the population (in the same way an accountant uses a spreadsheet to track multiple financial transactions). This is the essence of what is called "numerical simulation." When applied in genetic systems, numerical simulation can be termed "genetic accounting."

The program *Mendel's Accountant* was developed for this purpose. It is the first biologically-realistic, forward-time numerical simulation program for population genetics. This new program is a powerful research and teaching tool. When any reasonable set of biological parameters are used, *Mendel's Accountant* provides overwhelming empirical evidence that genomes degenerate over time and that all the flaws inherent in evolutionary theory are real. This effectively falsifies the Primary Axiom with a degree of certainty that should satisfy any open-minded person." ²²

So, according to Sanford, the human genome has been deteriorating ever since its formation due to the accumulation of mutations. Eventually it will cease functioning.²³ In sum, the human genome is *not* evolving; it is devolving!.²⁴ As I have said numerous times, Adam and Eve represent the pinnacle of mankind, and we represent the nadir of Mankind, while our descendants will undoubtedly fall even further (although the rate at which children in the 21st century are being born with physical abnormalities and developmental problems may indicate that the end is just around the corner).

<u>Section 1C – Uniformitarianism</u>

The Academy's third article of faith is *uniformitarianism*, which holds that all processes that we see today operated in the same manner in the past. Sediments have accumulated, river banks have eroded, and radioactive materials have decayed from one isotope to another at the same rate for millions of years. If you measure the rate of sedimentation, erosion, or radioactive decay today, you can use it to calculate when the sedimentation, erosion, or decay started in the past. On this basis, some geologists estimate the Grand Canyon to be 50-70 million years old.²⁵ In this day of trillion dollar national debts, 50-70 million years may not seem like much, but it is an exceedingly long time. I wonder what age they would have assigned to the surprisingly deep canyon which the explosion of Mount Saint Helena created in May 1980, which we know took six days?

Waterloo NY, 2008, which delivers the *coup de gras* to evolution, and Michael Behe's <u>Darwin Devolves – The New</u> <u>Science About DNA That Challenges Evolution</u>, Harper One, New York, NY, 2019, which indicates that the time has come to bury it.

²² Sanford, <u>op. cit.</u>, pp. 231-232.

²³ See Sanford, J.C., <u>Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome</u> (2005), FMS Publication, Waterloo NY, 2008, *Chapter 10 – Is the Downward Curve real*?

²⁴ See two books: John C. Sanford's <u>Genetic Entropy & The Mystery of the Genome</u> (2005), CFMS Publications,

²⁵ See <u>https://explorethecanyon.com/the-real-age-of-the-grand-canyon/ January 29, 2020.</u>



The Grand Canyon, Arizona

In contrast to the Grand Canyon, the chasms created by the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 took only six days.



Mount Saint Helens, Washington

<u>Section 1D – The unreliability of the Ancients</u>

The Academy's fourth article of faith is that the Ancients are unreliable sources of information about the past.

First, the pagan Ancients wrote about history's division into a series of distinct world ages like the Primordial Age, the Golden Age, the Silver Age, the Bronze Age, the Heroic Age, and the Iron Age, many of which had significantly different climates.

Second, the Ancients' wrote about ancient lands like Atlantis (Atlantic Ocean), Hy-Brasil (Atlantic Ocean), Kumari Kandan (Indian Ocean), Lemuria (probably the same as Mu; Pacific

Ocean), Lyonesse (Celtic Sea), Mauritia (Indian Ocean), Mayda (Atlantic Ocean), Thule (Arctic Ocean), and others, of which remnants have not been found.

Third, the Ancients' wrote about unusual creatures, such as land dragons and sea serpents, some of which flew and breathed fire.



Flying, Fire-breathing Dragon

Fourth, the Greek Ancients wrote about the heroic exploits of their Mycenaean forebears: (1) the labors of Herakles, (2) the slaying of the Minotaur by Theseus, (3) the voyage of the Argo, (4) the death of the seven heroes in the 1st Theban War, (5) the victory of the Epigoni (sons of the seven) in the 2nd Theban War, (6) the victory of the Greeks in the Trojan War, and (7) the voyage of Odysseus from Troy to Ithaca. Then a Roman wrote of (8) the voyage of Aeneas from Troy to Tuscany. These stories not only enthralled the Greeks and Romans in Antiquity, but millions of people in the western hemisphere from then until today. Included in these accounts were references to strife among their semi-human gods in general and battles in the sky involving Earth, Earth's Selene, Aphrodite, and Ares during the Trojan War in particular.

Fifth, the Hebrew Ancients wrote even more comprehensively about the past from God's creation of the world (c.4000 BC) to Mankind's first parents' time in the Garden of Eden (c.4000 BC) to Mankind's evil-doing during the Antediluvian Era (c.4000-2300 BC) to God's formation of Israel during the Postdiluvian Era (c.2300-1450 BC) to the travails of Israel under Moses, Joshua, elders, judges, and monarchs during the Post-Exodus Era (1450-650 BC) to Israel's suffering under the rule of Babylonians, Persians, Macedonians, and Romans in the Early Historic Period (c.650-2 BC). Included in these accounts were references to interactions between God and Mankind and catastrophes that were even more incredible than the Greeks' stories. Some of these events were the following:

- A global flood drowned the earth and nearly all its inhabitants in Noah's time.
- A remnant consisting of four human couples and one couple of each species of animals and birds survived by spending 370 days inside a wooden ark.
- Blasts from heaven destroyed the Tower of Babel in Terah's time, the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah in Abraham's time, and the Army of the Assyrian King Sennacherib in Hezekiah's time.
- Just prior to the Exodus, an unspecified cause visited a Ten Plagues on Egypt seriatim in Moses' time: (1) the waters of the Nile were turned red, (2) the land became infested with frogs, (3) lice infested men and beasts, (4) flies infested all the buildings of Egypt, (5)

murrain killed the cattle of Egypt, but oddly not the cattle of the Hebrews, (6) boils broke out on men and beasts, (7) hail (ice) and probably flaming naphtha (fire), accompanied by thunder, fell from the sky, killing trees, crops, animals, and men, (8) an east wind brought an infestation of locusts, (9) all Egypt was plunged into thick darkness, and (10) the firstborn of all Egyptian families and animals died.

- In the middle of the Hebrews' flight from Pi'thom and Ra-amses in the Nile Delta down the southwest coast of the Sinai Peninsula to Pihahiroth at the edge of the Red Sea,²⁶ a whirlwind appeared, looking like a pillar of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night, which followed the Hebrews and prevented Pharaoh's army from overtaking them.
- At Pihahiroth, the waters²⁷ (a) parted to allowed the Hebrews to walk from Egypt to Midian (now Saudi Arabia) and then (b) closed to drown Egypt's pharaoh and army.
- The sun stood still in the heavens in Joshua' time.
- The stars battled in the sky in Deborah's time.
- Fire and meteorites rained down on the Philistines in Samuel's time.
- An angel²⁸ almost destroyed Jerusalem in David's time.
- A terrible earthquake devasted the entire Middle East in Azariah's time
- The shadow on the sundial shifted by 10 degrees in Ahaz and Hezekiah's times.²⁹
- Most remarkable, God-the-Son was incarnated in the Hebrew man Jesus of Nazareth, who (a) was born of a virgin, (b) lived a sinless life, (c) exhibited such wisdom as a child that, at the age of twelve, He confounded the Temple elders, (d) turned water into wine, (e) walked on water, (e) gave sight to the blind and speech to the dumb, (f) enabled the lame to walk, (g) raised Lazarus from the dead, (h) died on a cross at Golgotha to atone for the sins of all men, women, and children who would repent of their sins and accept Him as their Savior and Lord, (i) rose from the dead, and finally (j) ascended into heaven..

The above stories are arresting and have not only captured the imagination of billions of people since they were written, but they have changed countless lives, turning them into followers and worshipers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish Messiah.

Unfortunately, most of the Academy's members regard all of the above as figments of the Ancients' primitive imaginations. While their stories are wonderfully entertaining and make great subject matter for children's books, they are dismissed as myths, legends, etc. – not to be taken seriously by mature adults, let alone trained scientists and scholars.

Members of the Academy denigrate these stories for a couple of reasons. First, they are cautious and do not want to risk being seen as gullible. Second, the scientific theories which they have accepted as fact will not allow most of these unusual events. Third, the multi-billion-year history of Earth requires that the creatures which might have been responsible for some of these stories,

²⁶ I believe the route which Moses undoubtedly followed crossed over the top of the Red Sea , moved down the southwest coast of the Sinai Peninsula to Pihahiroth, which was located somewhere between the modern towns of Ra's Nasrani and Nabq and constituted the western landfall of the Strait of Tiran.

²⁷ Undoubtedly the Strait or Tiran which lies between (a) the Gulf of Aqaba to the north and (c) the Red Sea to the south.

²⁸ Probably a heavenly body.

²⁹ Probably due to a shift in Earth's axis.

Introductory Documents by John Holbrook Jr. ©	
12-The Academy – Draft 2021-10-16, edited 2022-12-30	

like Tyrannosaurus Rex, Velociraptor, and Pteranodon were extinct long before the appearance of Homo Sapiens. Lastly, they tend to look down on the Ancients as being earlier in the evolutionary chain than themselves and therefore undoubtedly less intelligent. In brief, they are confident that they know better than their progenitors - and also their contemporary neighbors who still believe such stories.

<u>Section 1E – Manetho's chronology of Egypt</u>

The Academy's historians have a fifth article of faith, which is that Manetho's Egyptian king lists can serve as a reliable time-line for the entire, ancient Middle East.

Manetho was an Egyptian priest who lived at the beginning of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, probably during the reign of Ptolemy I Soter (305-282 BC), Ptolemy II Philadelphos (282-246 BC), or Ptolemy III Eurgetes (246-221 BC). He wrote *Aegyptiaca (History of Egypt* in English),³⁰ which presents the history of Egypt in the following manner:

- <u>The gods</u>, of which there were seven individuals Hephaestus, Helios, Sosis, Cronus, Osiris, Typhon, and Orus reigned for 13,900 years.
- <u>The demigods</u>, of which there were four groups, reigned for 5,212 years.
- <u>Spirits of the dead</u>, who reigned for 5,813 years.
- <u>Mortal men</u>, of which there were thirty-one dynasties, ruled for almost 3,000 years.

When amateur British archaeologists began excavating in Egypt in the early nineteenth century, they took Manetho's thirty-one dynasties of mortal men and stretched them out in a sequential series that covered 2,870 years (3200-330 BC). Later Egyptologists divided them into the following groups:

- <u>The Old Kingdom</u>, consisting of Dynasties 1-6 which ruled Egypt for 930 years (c.3200-2263 BC).
- <u>The First Intermediate Period</u>, consisting of Dynasties 7-10 which ruled Egypt for 930 years (2263-2131 BC).
- <u>The Middle Kingdom</u>, consisting of Dynasties 11-12 which ruled Egypt for 346 years (2131-1785 BC).
- <u>The Second Intermediate Period</u>, consisting of Dynasties 13-17 which ruled Egypt for 205 years (1785-1580 BC).
- <u>The New Kingdom</u>, consisting of Dynasties 18-20 which ruled Egypt for 495 years (1580-1085 BC).
- <u>The Decadent Period</u>, consisting of Dynasties 21-24 which ruled Egypt for 370 years (1085-715 BC).
- <u>The Late Period</u>, consisting of Dynasties 25-31 which ruled Egypt for 400 years (730-330) note 15 years (730-713 BC) overlap between the last two periods.

While modern Egyptologists have proposed many adjustments to the above chronology in the last century, including noting some overlaps among dynasties that probably existed at the same

³⁰ Wadell, W.G., <u>Manetho</u>, Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 1956.

time, they still roughly follow the original, sequential arrangement of the thirty one dynasties despite the fact that Manetho's king lists locate these dynasties in many different cities.

- The cities of <u>Lower (northern) Egypt³¹</u> are Xois, Tanis, Sebennytos, Sais, Mendes, Bubastis, and Avaris;
- The cities of <u>Middle Egypt³²</u> are Memphis, Heracleopolis, and El Amarna; and
- The cities of <u>Upper (southern) Egypt³³</u> are This/Thinis, Diospolis/Thebes, and Elephantine.³⁴

Furthermore, the damage has been done. Once the chronology of ancient Egypt was firmly in place, archaeologists digging in other areas of the Mediterranean and the Middle East used it to date their own discoveries. For example, if an archaeologist in Greece found an Egyptian scarab from the time of the pharaoh Amenhotep III of Dynasty 18, he would assume that the layer in which he was working was contemporaneous with the reign of Amenhotep III in Egypt. Thus, Manetho's chronological scheme became the backbone for dating archaeological ruins throughout the ancient world. Now things like the Hittite Empire³⁵ and the Dark Ages of Greece³⁶ are firmly implanted in people's minds, and it will be exceedingly difficult to get people to look at the ancient world in a completely new way, as Bible chronology indicates they should do. As a result, anyone who proposes significant adjustments to ancient chronology is rigorously - and usually disparagingly - opposed by the academic establishment.

<u>Section 1F – The future of Mankind</u>

The Academy's last article of faith is that modern man represents the pinnacle of human evolution, and its members tend to believe that he will continue to evolve, becoming ever more healthy, intelligent, and capable in the future. As you will see below, there is evidence that the very opposite is true.

PART 2 - THE ACADEMY'S VIEW OF THE PAST

<u>Section 2A – The Academy's origin of Universe</u>

The most popular theory of the origin of Universe among cosmologists today is the Big Bang. One day, Universe just exploded into existence. Before the Big Bang, there was nothing. After

³¹ Roughly Lat. 31° 30' N. (Mediterranean) to Lat. 30° 02' N. (Cairo).

³² Roughly Lat. 30° 02' N. (Cairo) to Lat. 27° 11' N. (Asyut).

³³ Roughly Lat. 27º 11' N. (Asyut) Lat. 24º N. (just south of Aswan).

³⁴ Consider two illustrations. First, there were often several strong city-states in Mesopotamia, such as Assyria, Babylon, Sumer, and Ur-of-the-Chaldees, that existed at the same time as one another and at the same time as some strong nomes in Egypt, but they were seldom under the rule of a single king. Second, take the USA, where there are fifty states. If you string out the terms of the governors of all fifty states during the 20th century, they will extend 4,918 years (not 5,000 years, because both Alaska and Hawaii did not join the Union until 1959).

³⁵ I believe that the records of the so-called Hittite Empire are actually the Chaldean records of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

³⁶ I believe that the Dark Ages of Greece are due to the misplacement of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt in the years c.1550-1290 BC instead of in the years 1040-810 BC, where it belongs.

the Big Bang, there was something - i.e. Universe. The problem with this theory is, it misuses the word "nothing." There is no such thing as nothing. The word "nothing" does not refer to anything. It lacks a referent. Whatever you say about nothing is nonsense. If the Big Bang was preceded by nothing, there was nothing to explode.

To escape from this problem, some cosmologists claim that Universe has existed forever. Before the current moment, time extends back to infinity. After the current moment, time will extend to infinity. The problem with this theory is, it misuses the word "infinity." Infinity is an operational concept that depends on the ability of a mind to add another number to the beginning or the end of a numerical sequence. For example, take a simple numerical series: -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, +1, +2, +3, +4, +5. In principle, I can go on adding numbers to either end *ad infinitum*. Another example, take a numerical series that approaches a limit: $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{64} + \frac{1}{128} +$ $1/256 + \dots$ which is approaching 1. In principle, I can go on adding to the right end of the series numbers equal to one half of each number's predecessor *ad infinitum* without the sum of the series ever reaching 1. The problem here is that I can do this in principle, but I cannot do it in reality. First, I can devote the rest of my life to adding numbers to one of the series for as many hours of the day as I can stay awake for as many years as I am alive, but when I die, the series will stop. What appears at first to be infinite is in fact finite. In concept it is infinite, but in actuality it is finite. Second, if I apply these numbers to something in actuality, I quickly realize that reality imposes finite constraints. If I am counting pebbles with the first series, I will spend enormous resources containing them and eventually lose the ability to do so. If I am cutting up an apple with the second series, I will quickly lose the ability to detect the remaining portion that I need to cut in half. Moreover, while I am struggling to accomplish this task, the apple is rotting and turning to mush.

There are other constraints as well. The recognition that infinity is an operational concept, which cannot be translated into reality, also means that Universe is finite. However large it is, and even if its boundaries seem to be moving, Universe is finite. It possesses boundaries.

Despite the above problems, most cosmologists today assume and often insist that Universe burst into existence 13.799 billion years ago, with a margin of error of plus or minus 0.021 billion years.³⁷ Wow! That is a remarkably precise number for something that happened so very long ago.

Furthermore most cosmologists, astronomers, geophysicists, etc. today assume and often insist that Earth formed 4.54 billion years ago.³⁸ I say "assume," because, regardless of the nature of their speculations, there is no way to authenticate them. They cannot be empirically verified, which is an essential ingredient in all science.

<u>Section 2B – The Academy's origin of life</u>

³⁷ See *Universe* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe</u>.

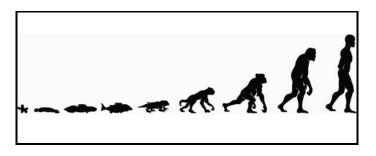
³⁸ See *History of Earth* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History of Earth</u>.

Most biologists today assume and often insist that life popped into existence in what they call a "pre-biotic soup" roughly 3.8 billion years ago.³⁹

Again, I say "assume," because, regardless of the nature of their speculations, there is no way to authenticate them. They do not really know what the conditions on Earth were 3.8 billion or even 65 million years ago (mya). Moreover, they do not really know what the transition from inanimate to animate matter would look like – let alone how to replicate it. While they may be able to detect the presence of life, they cannot explain it. Life is a mystery. Thus, again I maintain that their speculations cannot be empirically verified, which, I repeat, is an essential ingredient in all science.

<u>Section 2C – The Academy's natural history</u>

Most paleontologists assume and often insist that primates were the progenitors of the first humans. The early humans appeared roughly 90-57 mya⁴⁰ and evolved into Nakalipithecus, Ouranopithecus, Oreopithecus, Sahelanthropus, and finally Orrorin (7-6 mya).



Most paleontologists also assume and often insist that the first humans appeared roughly 20-15 million years ago,⁴¹ and evolved into Ardipithecus (5.6 mya), Australopithecus, Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Homo Heidelbergensis, and finally Homo Sapiens (300,000 years ago).

Because most paleontologists are committed to the view that humans evolved from primates, they have scoured the terrestrial land for bones or skulls that differ slightly from the bones and skulls of current, healthy men and women. They then reconstruct a complete body from these bones, showing hair, tissue, musculature, teeth, eyes, ears, limbs, etc. of the kind of creature which they imagine the mating of an ape and a man would produce. Voila! There is a missing link between apes and men. Then they give him (a) an impressive name, such as *Homo Heidelbergensis*, (b) a somewhat imprecise age, such as between 600,000 and 200,000 years ago, and even (c) a couple of mug shots so that you will be sure to recognize him if you run into him on the street (actually, they are not helpful in this respect, because they do not look much alike – at least to me).

³⁹ Seen *Evolution of Cells* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution of cells</u>.

⁴⁰ See *Evolution of Primates* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution_of_primates</u> and *Human Evolution* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_evolution</u>.

⁴¹ See *Human Evolution* at <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human evolution</u>.



Homo Heidelbergensis Skull & Two Portraits of a Homo Heidelbergensis Man

According to the above scenario, the process of evolving from cells to Homo Sapiens - i.e. the gestation before our birth, so-to-speak - took, not nine months, but roughly 64.7 million years (65,000,000-300,000 BC), during the last 5.3 million years (5,600,000-300,000 BC) of which we grunted at one another and scrounged for leaves, berries, beetles, bugs, worms, and, occasionally, small animals.

<u>Section 2E – The Academy's human history</u>

Once we became human, we made slow progress. Most anthropologists, archaeologists, and ancient historians believe that human history can be summarized as follows:

- <u>Our childhood</u> was spent still grunting at one another while we lived in caves, discovered fire, fabricated tools and weapons with stone heads, and killed animals and one another over the course of roughly 170 thousand years (300,000-130,000 BC);
- <u>Our youth</u> was spent learning to talk to one another, while developing small compounds and villages from which we ventured out to till the fields and hunt animals over the course of 120,000 years (c.130,000-10,000 BC).
- <u>Our early adulthood</u> was spent learning to write on papyri and clay tablets while developing cities like Akkad, Babylon, Sumer, Thebes, Ur-of-the-Chaldees, etc., as well as trading with and waging war on one another over the course of roughly 9,000 thousand years (c.10,000-1000 BC);
- <u>Our late adulthood</u> began c.1000 BC when we finally learned to write history while developing empires like Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Macedon, Persia, and Rome, all of which became reasonably good at burning, plundering, and slaughtering one another.

There are a number of obvious problems with the above scenario.

First, the dates that I have cited in it are not only fantastic, but just a bit unreliable, because I have never found two sources that agree.

Second, because of the reliance on the king lists of Manetho, the account of our adulthood in the Middle East prior to 330 BC is plagued by (a) misplaced, missing, and phantom ages, (b) misplaced, missing, and phantom peoples, (c) lack of connections between so-called neighbors,

(d) reversed sequence of events, and (e) denials of obvious facts, such as the extensive navigation of the oceans going back millennia.⁴²

Third, the Academy ignores the series of physical disturbances to which the world has been subject during the Prehistoric Period, which are mentioned in Egyptian, Greek, and Hebrew documents - just to name a few. The latter are dismissed as myth and legend because they do not conform to the fairytale that scientist promoting evolution and uniformitarianism have concocted.

Last, the greatest impediment to the Academy's developing an accurate history of the world is the arrogant conviction of its members that we are more intelligent and better informed today than our forebears were twenty-seven hundred to six thousand years ago – let alone beyond six thousand years ago. They believe with confidence that we are continually evolving from (a) our start as cells in the primordial soup through (b) our simian stages as monkeys and apes to (c) our primitive stages in caves and hovels to (d) our early years as hunters and harvesters to (e) our exemplary status today as voting citizens in most nations on Earth to (f) our near future as citizens of a New World Order being prepared for us by men and women of intellect and good will who report to the worlds' oligarchs, and finally (g) our sure future as masters (supermen) and mistresses (superwomen) of Universe. There may be some frayed edges to this account, but they are regarded as trivial in comparison to the grandeur of the overall vision.

Section 2F - The Academy's view of Man

Since belief in God has become unfashionable and even intolerable to many people these days, particularly members of the Academy, man has become his own god and capable of setting his own rules for the behavior of individuals, families, churches, and communities – a form of religious belief that is called Secular Humanism, but which I often call Atheistic Humanism.

Not surprisingly, however, there is a general recognition that not every person can choose his own rules, which would lead to anarchy and eventually chaos. Thus a struggle has begun over what group of people will run the world. Globalism is the result, and again, not surprisingly, the super-rich, while calling for the ever-greater concentration of commercial, governmental, and military power, are vying with one another to seize the levers of this power - and get richer.

⁴² For a start, see Hapgood, Charles H., <u>Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings</u>, Chilton Co., Philadelphia PA, 1966