



Executive Summary

Original source: [Library of Rickandria — The Last Pennant Before Armageddon?](#)

The thread begins with an arresting idea: W. P. Kinsella imagined the Chicago Cubs winning the final National League pennant before Armageddon; perhaps, the poster suggests, the order in which baseball pennants are decided tracks the opening of the first four seals of Revelation. The argument then expands outward—into Wrigley Field history, Freemasonry, films, Soviet and German political history, Donald Trump, Operation Warp Speed, the Nuremberg Code, football fatalities, numerology, and a growing set of sports coincidences.

The right way to examine a theory like this is neither ridicule nor credulity. Some of its supporting details are genuinely true. Several are surprisingly specific. A few are simply wrong. And the central inference—from coincidence to coordination to biblical prophecy—requires bridges that the thread does not establish.

BOTTOM LINE Two foundational claims fail direct checking. First, Kinsella’s story does say “when the Cubs next win the National League Championship,” making the 2016 pennant the story’s stated next-pennant marker. Second, the thread’s claim that the AL pennant was settled before a Cubs NL pennant only in 1929, 1932 and 2016 is false: in the World Series era, it happened seven times—1908, 1910, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938 and 2016.

The biblical difficulty is independent of those historical errors. Revelation 5–6 identifies the Lamb as the one worthy to open the seals and repeatedly says that the Lamb opens them. The thread also merges attributes that Revelation keeps separate: the “great sword” belongs to the red horseman, while the “balances” belong to the black horseman. Zechariah 1 and 6 provide the Bible’s own earlier horse-and-chariot imagery and should therefore be consulted before modern color associations.

The psychology section does not diagnose anyone in the thread. Instead, it explains ordinary cognitive processes—pattern detection, illusory correlation, confirmation asymmetry, the look-elsewhere effect, narrative compression and post-hoc hypothesis adjustment—that can make a dense cluster of coincidences feel increasingly self-authenticating. Experimental research has linked reduced control with greater illusory pattern perception and has found associations between pattern perception and conspiracy/supernatural beliefs; those are population-level findings, not verdicts on anonymous individuals.

The paper’s conclusion is therefore deliberately narrower than “nothing here matters.” Many of the coincidences are real, and some deserve to be preserved as baseball and cultural history. What the evidence does not establish is that they form a controlled prophetic code or that a future Cubs pennant would break the Fourth Seal. The Christian corrective is likewise narrower: Scripture commands testing, sobriety and readiness, but it does not identify Major League Baseball as an augur or prophetic clock.

How to Read This Paper

Four kinds of statements recur, and the distinctions matter:

Label	What it means
FACT	A claim that can be checked against historical, documentary, statistical or other external evidence.
INFERENCE	A conclusion drawn from facts. It may be reasonable or weak, but it is not itself the raw fact.
SPECULATION	A possibility proposed without enough evidence to establish it. “Possible” does not mean “probable.”
SCRIPTURE	What the biblical text itself says. Theological applications and interpretive systems are discussed separately.

Method and Source Hierarchy

The thread captures are treated as the primary source for what the posters actually claimed. Because screenshots are difficult to read at publication size, the visible thread has been transcribed into text in Appendix P. For factual checking, priority goes to primary documents and official institutional records, then major scholarly/reference institutions, then specialist historical organizations such as SABR, and finally reputable journalism. Masonic membership claims are checked against Masonic bodies because those organizations are the direct custodians of their own membership history; that can establish membership, but not a broader theory of institutional control.

A historical coincidence is not treated as false merely because it appears inside a speculative theory. Conversely, a true coincidence is not treated as proof of the theory. The analysis asks a sequence of questions: Did the event happen? Is the asserted association real? Is there evidence of causation or intentional encoding? Is there a stable decoding rule? What evidence could disconfirm the claim? And, where Scripture is invoked, does the proposed identification arise from the text or get imported into it?

Sources: [Kinsella, The Thrill of the Grass — book preview](#) · [Whitson & Galinsky \(Science, 2008\)](#) · [van Prooijen et al. \(2018\)](#)

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1. Reconstructing the Thread

Thread No. 43019604 begins with a conditional prediction: if the Cubs win the National League pennant after the American League pennant has already been settled, the Fourth Seal will be broken. The original poster describes the theory as “crazy” and says he is not completely certain. That qualification matters. We are examining a speculative argument presented as a theory, not treating an anonymous poster as a self-declared biblical prophet.

The thread’s argument is cumulative. No single observation does all the work. Instead, dozens of details are stacked until the pattern seems to acquire weight by repetition: Kinsella’s Armageddon story; the Cubs’ championship drought; Weeghman Park; Freemasons in early baseball; Pete Crow-Armstrong’s family connection to Little Big League; Ted Turner; Ernie Banks; pennant-clinching order; Stalin, Hitler and Trump; Revelation’s horse colors; Operation Warp Speed; the Nuremberg Code; Trump Tower; the Bears at Wrigley; the Billy Goat; football deaths; and finally the 2026 White Sox.

PRIMARY-SOURCE CAUTION The screenshots show the thread as it appeared to the user. They do not establish that every anonymous post came from the same individual, even when voice and subject matter appear continuous. This paper therefore attributes claims to post numbers, not to a presumed single author.

The thread’s dependency chain

Kinsella fiction	Cubs pennant timing	historical ruler matching	horse-color symbolism	modern political identification	Revelation 6	Fourth Seal prediction
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A cumulative case is only as strong as its weakest indispensable bridge. If Kinsella is quoted incorrectly, if the claimed baseball chronology is incomplete, or if the biblical symbols are reassigned ad hoc, later coincidences cannot repair those earlier defects. They may remain interesting, but they no longer support the stated chain in the way the thread claims.

Post-by-post map

Post(s)	Role in the argument
43019604	OP: Kinsella, Armageddon, Masonic baseball, Weeghman Park, Little Big League, Turner, Banks, and the 1929/1932/2016 sequence.
43019606	Dismissive reply: “take your meds asap.”
43019631	Revelation 6 quoted; Trump placed alongside Stalin and Hitler.
43019651	Stalin mapped to the white horse through conquest and a white jacket.
43019676	Hitler mapped to the red horse through war/red symbolism; Holocaust claims are muddled.
43019709	Trump mapped to the black horse through poverty, food/oil, Warp Speed, Nuremberg, scales, Trump Tower and “66.”
43019738	Theory broadened: seal-opening means putting a horseman in power; effects may unfold for years; baseball may be an “augur.”

43019762–780	Bears/Wrigley, Field of Dreams production, Cubs logo and Billy Goat; OP corrects 1918 to 1908.
43019790–43020044	Football, CTE, bloodlust, altruism and Armageddon as moral conflict.
43020209	Sportsbook odds plus speculative contest manipulation.
43022029–43022692	White Sox branch: another possible prophecy; 2024 record claim; Jordan Hicks contract; 6–3 win; horsemen need not overlap.

THREAD RECORD 1 - Opening thesis

No. 43019604 opens with the claim that a future Cubs National League pennant, if clinched after the American League pennant, may mark the Fourth Seal. The post links W. P. Kinsella's baseball fiction, Masonic associations in early baseball, Wrigley Field history, Little Big League, Ted Turner, Ernie Banks, and the years 1929, 1932 and 2016. It then maps those years to Stalin, Hitler and Trump. No. 43019606 replies only: "take your meds asap."

2. The Kinsella Foundation: What the Story Actually Says

This is the first place where the thread can be tested against a source rather than against interpretation. Kinsella's story is real, its premise really does connect a Cubs pennant with Armageddon, and the coincidence with the Cubs' eventual 2016 pennant is legitimately striking.

"When the Cubs next win the National League Championship, it will be the last pennant before Armageddon."

— W. P. Kinsella, *The Last Pennant Before Armageddon* (quoted by contemporary literary commentary)

The word *next* is decisive. The OP explicitly argues that Kinsella does not say "the next pennant" and therefore leaves room for a later Cubs pennant to be the relevant trigger. But the surviving quotation says the opposite. In ordinary reading, "when the Cubs next win" points to the first Cubs National League championship after the story's publication. That happened in 1918, when Chicago beat Los Angeles to reach its first World Series since 1905.

FACT Kinsella's fiction supplies a real Cubs/Armageddon coincidence. The OP's paraphrase of the crucial sentence omits/reverses its "next" condition. The 1918 Cubs pennant is therefore the story's natural next-pennant referent.

Sources: [Philadelphia Inquirer — quotation and 2016 context](#) · [Public Books — literary discussion and exact line](#) · [MLB — Cubs win 2016 NL pennant](#)

Kinsella on what he was doing as a writer

Kinsella's own introduction to *The Thrill of the Grass* makes the literary category unusually clear. He describes himself as creating "works of imagination," says "A writer's first duty is to entertain," rejects interviewers' attempts to make him confess belief in the magic he writes, and closes by acknowledging symbols, ironies, and biblical or mythological retellings while insisting that the stories were first written to entertain. That does not prevent a reader from finding serious theological meaning in fiction. It does make it poor method to silently upgrade fiction into divine revelation.

Sources: [Kinsella, *The Thrill of the Grass* — introduction preview](#) · [AFI — Shoeless Joe film-rights history for Field of Dreams](#)

The 1908/1918 correction

The OP initially says the Cubs had not won the World Series since 1918. Later, No. 43019780 corrects this to 1908. The correction is right: 1908 was the Cubs' last World Series title before 2016; in 1918 they lost the Series to Boston. A self-correction should count in the poster's favor. It also illustrates why the paper keeps a claim ledger rather than treating every mistake as evidence of bad faith.

Sources: [MLB Cubs timeline](#)

3. The Baseball Chronology Test

The thread's most testable historical claim is also one of its most important: that the Cubs have won the National League pennant after the American League pennant was already resolved only three times—1929, 1932 and 2016. Because the proposed prophetic sequence rests on those three years, the correct test is not to confirm those three examples. It is to enumerate every Cubs pennant in the World Series era and ask which league clinched first.

RESULT The “three times” claim is false. The AL pennant was settled before the Cubs’ NL pennant seven times in the World Series era: 1908, 1910, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938 and 2016. Even if one starts only after the Cubs’ 1918 season at Weeghman/Wrigley, the sequence occurs five times: 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938 and 2016.

Year	NL (Cubs) clinch	AL clinch	Order
1906	Cubs Sep 19	White Sox Oct 3	NL first
1907	Cubs Sep 23	Tigers Oct 5	NL first
1908	Cubs Oct 8	Tigers Oct 6	AL first
1910	Cubs Oct 2	Athletics Sep 19	AL first
1918	Cubs Aug 24	Red Sox Aug 31	NL first
1929	Cubs Sep 19	Athletics Sep 14	AL first
1932	Cubs Sep 20	Yankees Sep 13	AL first
1935	Cubs Sep 27	Tigers Sep 21	AL first
1938	Cubs Oct 1	Yankees Sep 19	AL first
1945	Cubs Sep 29	Tigers Sep 30	NL first
2016	Cubs Oct 22	Cleveland Oct 19	AL first

Table sources: [1906 NL/1906 AL](#) · [1907 NL/1907 AL](#) · [1908 NL/1908 AL](#) · [1910 NL/1910 AL](#) · [1918 NL/1918 AL](#) · [1929 NL/1929 AL](#) · [1932 NL/1932 AL](#) · [1935 NL/1935 AL](#) · [1938 NL/1938 AL](#) · [1945 NL/1945 AL](#) · [2016 NL/2016 AL](#)

This changes the evidentiary structure of the thread. Once 1908, 1910, 1935 and 1938 are restored to the dataset, the proposed three-point political sequence is no longer a complete enumeration; it is a selection. A new theory could be built to explain why those omitted years do not count, but that rule would need to be specified independently and in advance rather than after the unwanted cases appear.

Why missing cases matter

Suppose a pattern is offered as “whenever A happens, a historically exceptional political event follows.” If several additional A-events are discovered with no corresponding event selected by the theory, the hypothesis has acquired misses. The next step is not automatically to discard it; the next step is to ask whether the rule for deciding what counts was stable before the misses were known. If the rule changes to preserve only the desired matches, the analysis has moved from testing a hypothesis to fitting a narrative.

4. Baseball History, Freemasonry, Film and Wrigley Field

Weeghman Park was real; “stolen in 1918” is not a neutral description

The thread is right that Wrigley Field began as Weeghman Park, built for Chicago’s Federal League club. The Federal League folded after the 1915 season. Charles Weeghman then joined investors to purchase the Cubs and moved them into his ballpark for the 1916 season. Weeghman later left the ownership group; the park eventually became Wrigley Field. MLB’s own history describes a purchase and post-Federal League restructuring, not a 1918 theft.

Sources: [MLB — Wrigley Field history](#) · [MLB — Wrigley Field FAQ](#)

Freemasonry: genuine memberships, unproved control

There is real historical material underneath the Masonic claim. Masonic organizations identify numerous notable baseball figures as members. The Valley of Chicago Scottish Rite, for example, identifies Ernie Banks as a member of Prince Hall Fidelity Lodge No. 103 and also documents Masonic affiliations for Cy Young, Ty Cobb, Rogers Hornsby and others. The Illinois Prince Hall Grand Lodge independently lists Banks.

That establishes membership. It does not establish a mechanism by which Freemasonry controlled league outcomes, scripted pennants, or encoded Revelation into baseball. Moving from “many prominent players belonged” to “the fraternity directed the sport’s prophetic history” requires evidence of institutional coordination: directives, communications, financial arrangements, game manipulation, or some other causal chain. The thread does not supply such evidence.

METHOD Association is not control. A historically interesting concentration of members can justify further archival research; it cannot by itself carry the conclusion that the organization caused the outcomes under discussion.

Sources: [Illinois Prince Hall Grand Lodge — Ernie Banks listing](#) · [Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago — baseball and Freemasonry exhibit](#) · [MLB — Ernie Banks facts](#)

Pete Crow-Armstrong and Little Big League

The family connection is true: MLB notes that Pete Crow-Armstrong’s mother, Ashley Crow, played Billy Heywood’s mother in the 1994 film Little Big League. That is exactly the kind of coincidence worth preserving rather than dismissing.

The Wild Card point needs chronology. Major League owners approved three divisions per league and a Wild Card in September 1993, before Little Big League reached theaters in 1994. Because the 1994 strike canceled the postseason, the new format did not actually produce a completed Wild Card postseason that year. The film’s use of the concept can therefore feel predictive in retrospect while still drawing on a format that had already been publicly approved.

Sources: [MLB — Crow-Armstrong’s mother and Little Big League](#) · [Los Angeles Times, Sept. 10, 1993 — Wild Card approved](#)

Ted Turner and the Georgia Guidestones

Ted Turner really did manage the Braves for one game while owning the club in 1977. SABR documents both the episode and the post-Connie Mack rule barring an owner from managing a team in which he held stock. Turner’s managerial record was 0–1.

The thread then calls Turner the “likely originator” of the Georgia Guidestones. The historical record does not justify that confidence. The New Georgia Encyclopedia states that the commissioner used the pseudonym R. C. Christian and that his real identity and the identity of the organization behind him remain unknown. A resemblance between Turner’s public interests and some Guidestones themes is not evidence that he commissioned them.

Sources: [SABR — Ted Turner’s one game as manager](#) · [New Georgia Encyclopedia — Guidestones origins](#)

Ernie Banks

The strongest version of the Banks claim does not need the subjective word “greatest.” Banks played his entire major-league career with the Cubs, is a Hall of Famer, and his 2,528 games are the most by any player who never appeared in

postseason play. His Prince Hall Masonic membership is also documented. Those are striking facts. None, by itself, demonstrates a hidden prophetic program.

Sources: [MLB — Banks, 2,528 games and no postseason](#) · [Illinois Prince Hall Grand Lodge](#)

5. 1929 and the White Horse: Stalin

The 1929 political anchor is not invented. November 1929 was a genuine milestone in Stalin's defeat of the Right Opposition. A digitized key document dated November 17 records the decision excluding Nikolai Bukharin from the Politburo and describes the Stalin faction's victory in the struggle. It is reasonable to call 1929 a major consolidation point, though "Stalin gained undisputed control in November" compresses a process into a single date.

Sources: [1000 Schlüsseldokumente — Nov. 17, 1929 resolution on Bukharin](#)

Where the white-horse mapping becomes interpretive

Post No. 43019651 then maps Stalin to Revelation's first rider: conquest supplies the "conquering" language and a white military jacket supplies the color. The conquest association is at least thematically intelligible. The jacket, however, is not a textual match to a white horse. Revelation 6 describes a rider on a white horse who has a bow and receives a crown. When one selected attribute from a modern figure is allowed to stand in for a different attribute in the text, the decoder has become flexible.

The same post says Stalin "conquers the most people in nominal terms" if Warsaw Pact states are included. That formulation is not measurable without defining "conquer," and its institutional wording is anachronistic: the Warsaw Pact was founded in 1955, after Stalin's death. Soviet domination of Eastern Europe under Stalin is real history; counting later Pact membership as a Stalin-era institutional achievement is not precise.

Sources: [U.S. State Department Historian — Warsaw Pact founded May 14, 1955](#)

INTERPRETATION A ruler can resemble an apocalyptic image without being identified by the text. Similarity is evidence for an interpretation only to the extent that the matching rule is specific, stable and discriminating.

6. 1932 and the Red Horse: Hitler

The thread's basic political chronology is substantially accurate but needs precision. In November 1932 the Nazi Party received about 33 percent of the vote and remained the largest party in the Reichstag, while losing support compared with July. Hitler was not elected chancellor by that vote; President Paul von Hindenburg appointed him chancellor on January 30, 1933. The Reichstag fire followed in February, another election in March, and the Enabling Act in March 1933.

Sources: [USHMM — Nazi Party and 1932 election](#) · [USHMM — Hitler comes to power](#)

The Holocaust aside requires a factual correction

Post No. 43019676 speaks as though three possibilities can be left open together: Hitler ordered genocide, gas chambers existed, or people merely died in typhus-ridden camps. That framing is historically unsound. The existence and murderous use of Nazi gas chambers is supported by mutually reinforcing documentary, physical, archaeological, perpetrator and eyewitness evidence. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum summarizes about fifty distinct gas chambers and the use of poisonous gas to murder millions.

There are legitimate historical questions about the bureaucratic development, timing and documentary form of the Final Solution, including the absence of one surviving comprehensive signed order from Hitler spelling out every component. Those questions do not reopen whether mass gassing occurred or whether the Nazi regime systematically murdered Europe's Jews and other victims.

Sources: [USHMM — Nazi gas chambers and evidentiary record](#)

FACT The Holocaust and Nazi gas chambers are not balanced possibilities in an evidentiary dispute. They are established historical facts supported by multiple independent classes of evidence.

Red horse, red flag

Hitler and the Second World War provide an obvious thematic connection to Revelation's red horse, whose rider is permitted to take peace from the earth and receives a great sword. But the post's "Red Horse ... Red Flag" move adds little. Red is ubiquitous in political symbolism, including Nazi iconography, communist symbolism, national flags and military design. A color match selected after a historical figure has already been chosen is weak unless the color rule was specified in advance and excludes most alternative candidates.

The statement that the world has "basically been in a state of war ever since" further broadens the criterion. Armed conflict did continue after 1945, including proxy wars during the Cold War and later regional wars, but a rule satisfied whenever any war exists somewhere is too permissive to identify one historical rider.

THREAD RECORD 2 - White and red horse mappings

Nos. 43019631-43019676 shift from baseball chronology to Revelation 6. The OP quotes the first three seals from a modern English Bible translation, then proposes Stalin as the white-horse figure because of conquest and a white jacket, and Hitler as the red-horse figure because of war and red political imagery. The same sequence includes a brief "CUBS WIN" reply.

7. 2016 and the Black Horse: Trump

The 2016 anchor is straightforward: Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election through the Electoral College, and the Cubs won the National League pennant that October after Cleveland had already won the American League pennant. Those are factual chronological coincidences. The remaining question is whether the details selected from Trump's presidency fit Revelation 6 by a stable rule.

Sources: [National Archives — 2016 Electoral College results](#) · [MLB — Cubs win 2016 NL pennant](#) · [Baseball-Reference — Oct. 19 ALCS Game 5](#)

"A whole term without starting a war"

This depends on what "starting a war" means. Under a narrow definition—no new Iraq- or Afghanistan-scale ground war—it expresses a political talking point that can be stated descriptively. Under a broader definition of initiating military hostilities, the record is more complicated: in April 2017 Trump ordered a U.S. Tomahawk missile strike on a Syrian air base, while ongoing U.S. military operations continued elsewhere. The responsible conclusion is not to choose a slogan but to define the category.

Sources: [U.S. Department of Defense — April 2017 Syria strike](#)

Extreme poverty during COVID-19

The World Bank does support a dramatic underlying statistic. It estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic pushed about 70 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, the largest one-year increase since global poverty monitoring began in 1990. The thread expands that to "the largest absolute expansion of extreme poverty in recorded human history" and attributes it to Trump "during the lockdowns." The first expansion exceeds the data: a globally comparable series does not run through all recorded history. The second compresses a worldwide pandemic, varied national lockdown policies, labor shocks and supply disruptions into one individual's causal responsibility.

Sources: [World Bank — 2020 extreme-poverty reversal](#)

Operation Warp Speed → Star Trek → Eugenics Wars

The thread's chain here is semantic. Operation Warp Speed was the name of a federal HHS/Defense Department effort to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development, manufacturing and distribution. "Warp speed" is familiar from science fiction and especially Star Trek. But a reference to a fictional vocabulary does not import every plot element of that fictional universe into the real-world program. Moving from the name to Star Trek's Eugenics Wars and then to "eugenicist selection event" is association, not evidence of the program's intent.

That does not settle every ethical controversy about pandemic policy. It simply keeps separate questions separate. A claim about coercive mandates, informed consent, adverse-event communication or emergency authorization must be tested on its own evidence. It cannot be established by the title of the program.

Sources: [U.S. Department of Defense — Operation Warp Speed structure](#)

Nuremberg Code

The Nuremberg Code arose from the prosecution of criminal human experimentation and begins with the principle that “the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.” Invoking the Code can therefore raise a serious ethical question when genuine experimentation is at issue. It does not, by itself, prove that every recipient of a product studied in clinical trials was an involuntary research subject or that every disputed public-health policy was a Nuremberg violation. The category—research experiment, clinical use, mandate, employment policy—has to be identified before the Code can be applied.

Sources: [HHS Office of Research Integrity — Nuremberg Code](#)

The textual problem: balances and sword belong to different riders

This is one of the strongest Scripture corrections in the paper. Post No. 43019709 says “Scales and a sword aren’t just about prices, but justice.” In Revelation 6, the sword is given to the red rider at the second seal. The black rider at the third seal carries the balances, and the accompanying voice speaks of wheat, barley, oil and wine. Combining the sword and balances into a single modern political symbol is not a minor interpretive preference; it rearranges the distribution of symbols in the text.

SCRIPTURE Revelation 6:4 gives the red rider “a great sword.” Revelation 6:5 gives the black rider “a pair of balances.” Verse 6 then describes grain prices and preserves oil and wine. The thread’s “scales + sword” Trump symbol crosses the second and third seals.

Trump Tower, “66,” black glass and the escalator

These details illustrate the difference between a striking association and a discriminating test. Trump’s 2015 campaign announcement did include an escalator descent in Trump Tower, and the building has dark reflective glass and marketed floor numbering that reaches the sixties. But once a candidate is selected first, an enormous number of architectural, biographical and numerical details become searchable. A black tower, a 66th-floor label, a gold lobby, a date, a height, or a name can all become symbolic material. The theory needs a rule telling us beforehand which features count and which do not.

METHOD If almost any visual or numerical feature can be reinterpreted as a hit, the probability of finding a hit under ordinary chance becomes high. That reduces the evidentiary value of the match.

THREAD RECORD 3 - Trump and the black-horse construction

Nos. 43019697-43019721 expand the theory around Trump. The post cites pandemic-era poverty, food and oil, Operation Warp Speed, the Nuremberg Code, Trump Tower, the escalator announcement and the marketed 66th-floor penthouse. It treats “scales” and “sword” as symbols of both prices and justice, even though Revelation assigns the sword to the second rider and the balances to the third.

8. Peripheral Claims: Bears, CTE, Goats, Films and the White Sox

Bears at Wrigley

The Chicago Bears really did call Wrigley Field home for 50 seasons, from 1921 through 1970. That is a clean factual hit. The thread’s line that the Bears “did kill a guy in a game” is not. Lions receiver Chuck Hughes died after collapsing during a 1971 game against Chicago; describing that as the Bears killing him confuses temporal setting with causation. The notable point for the thread is simply that the death occurred the season after the Bears left Wrigley.

Sources: [Chicago Bears — 50 seasons at Wrigley](#)

Early football deaths and CTE

The underlying danger of early American football is well documented. The NCAA’s own institutional history says the 1905 season produced 18 deaths and 149 serious injuries attributed to the sport, helping spur Theodore Roosevelt’s

reform intervention and the creation of the NCAA’s precursor. The thread’s broader claim of “a dozen-or-three” deaths every year from the 1890s onward is too sweeping without a year-by-year series, but the central historical observation—that early football was lethally dangerous—is sound.

On CTE, the CDC says long-term exposure to repeated head impacts is associated with chronic traumatic encephalopathy while emphasizing that not everyone exposed develops CTE and that there is not strong evidence that one or a few concussions alone cause it. “Football causes a terrifying amount of CTE” captures a genuine risk concern but is not a precise prevalence estimate.

Sources: [NCAA — 1905 football deaths and reform](#) · [CDC — repeated head impacts and CTE](#)

Field of Dreams: drought and insects

That production anecdote is real. The American Film Institute notes that filming in Iowa was delayed by drought. Timothy Busfield later recalled severe heat, the 1988 drought, irrigation of the corn, and intense bugs. The methodological question is not whether the hardship happened—it did—but whether drought and insects on an agricultural film set are improbable enough, and specified enough beforehand, to function as prophetic evidence.

Sources: [AFI Catalog — drought delayed production](#) · [People — Busfield on drought, irrigation and bugs](#)

The Billy Goat was not sacrificed

The famous 1945 story concerns tavern owner William Sianis bringing his pet goat Murphy to a World Series game and being denied entry or removed with it, depending on the retelling. SABR’s historical review treats the later “curse” as baseball folklore. There was no ritual slaughter of the goat by the Cubs. The phrase “sacrifice a goat” changes an ejection story into an occult ritual and thereby manufactures symbolic force.

Sources: [SABR — history of the Billy Goat curse](#)

The White Sox branch and the 2024 arithmetic

The late thread begins creating a second sports-prophecy branch around the White Sox. The 2024 statement is checkable: with nine games left on September 19, the White Sox were 36–117. MLB reported that they needed to win at least seven of their final nine to avoid tying the modern record of 120 losses. They eventually finished 41–121 after winning five of their final six. The post’s “win 5 of their last 9” recollection is therefore wrong.

Sources: [MLB, Sept. 19, 2024 — 36–117 and seven-of-nine requirement](#) · [MLB — record 121st loss](#)

Jordan Hicks contract wording

The screenshot describes Jordan Hicks as being on a four-year, \$44 million contract “with the White Sox.” In 2026 he may be carried by Chicago under that contract, but the original four-year, \$44 million agreement was signed with the San Francisco Giants in January 2024. The distinction is small for the sports narrative but important for a forensic paper: contracts follow players after trades even when the current club did not originate the deal.

Sources: [San Francisco Giants — original four-year, \\$44 million Hicks contract](#)

The “take your meds” reply

The early reply “take your meds asap” is not evidence. It neither checks the history nor addresses the logic. It is an ad hominem dismissal. The thread should not be defended by diagnosing its critics, and it should not be rejected by diagnosing its proponents. The useful questions are public and testable: what was claimed, what evidence supports it, and what follows from that evidence?

THREAD RECORD 4 - Baseball as augury

Nos. 43019738–43019780 make the theory more elastic. The OP says seal effects may take years, that opening a seal means putting a horseman “in power,” and that baseball may function as an “augur.” The sequence also invokes Timothy Busfield, the Bears at Wrigley, Field of Dreams production problems, the Cubs logo and the Billy Goat legend.

THREAD RECORD 5 - Violence, altruism and manipulation

Nos. 43019790-43020209 turn to football violence, CTE, ancestral "bloodlust," altruism, self-sacrifice and a metaphorical reading of Armageddon as conflict between impulses. The conversation then returns to sportsbook odds and speculation that "deep state occult people" might manipulate the contest.

THREAD RECORD 6 - White Sox branch

Nos. 43022029-43022692 branch into a second sports-prophecy idea: a White Sox championship could be "another prophecy." The posts discuss a wager, the 2024 White Sox record, a 1919 "make-up series," Jordan Hicks, and a 6-3 White Sox win, before concluding that the horsemen need not all be alive at the same time.

9. How the Pattern Grows: Methodology

The thread becomes more persuasive as it becomes more crowded. That is psychologically understandable: ten connected facts feel stronger than one. Methodologically, though, more facts help only if they were selected by a stable rule and if each one is more likely under the proposed hypothesis than under ordinary coincidence.

From observation to prophecy: four different steps

Observation	Association	Causation	Prophetic identification
Ashley Crow acted in Little Big League.	Her son later became a Cub.	The film or family link influenced events.	The connection was divinely encoded as an end-time sign.
Ernie Banks was a Mason.	Many baseball figures were Masons.	Freemasonry directed baseball outcomes.	The direction implemented Revelation's seals.
AL clinched before Cubs in 2016.	Trump won the election that year.	The pennant order caused/encoded the political event.	Trump is a horseman of Revelation.

A factual error at step one is fatal to the specific chain. A true step one does not automatically establish step two. And even a meaningful association at step two does not prove causation or prophecy.

The look-elsewhere problem

After a pattern is found, asking "what are the odds of this exact pattern?" can be badly misleading. The relevant comparison includes all the patterns one would have accepted as meaningful: dozens of teams, seasons, actors, films, colors, numbers, stadiums, owners, presidents, wars, economic statistics and scriptural images. The more places we search, the less surprising it becomes that something matches.

A simple illustration makes the point. If an event has probability p in one trial and we look across N independent opportunities, the chance of at least one hit is $1 - (1 - p)^N$. The real thread is not independent and its p values are not known, so this is not an empirical estimate. It is a demonstration of why multiple opportunities matter.

Bayesian framing

Bayesian language gives a clean principle without pretending we know exact probabilities. Evidence E supports a hypothesis H strongly when E is much more expected if H is true than if H is false. In symbols, the evidential update depends on the likelihood ratio $P(E|H) / P(E|\text{not-}H)$. A flexible, post-hoc decoder raises $P(E|\text{not-}H)$, because ordinary history can generate many acceptable-looking matches. That reduces the update.

METHOD Specificity is evidential currency. A prediction stated before the event, with one trigger, one time window, one outcome and one failure condition can be strongly tested. A pattern discovered afterward with many interchangeable symbols cannot.

Prediction rescue

The screenshots show several moves that expand the theory after pressure appears: "next pennant" becomes any relevant pennant; seal opening becomes "putting the horseman in power"; disasters may take years; horsemen need not all be alive together; the White Sox can become "another prophecy"; and another poster adds the Toronto Maple Leafs. Each move may be imaginable on its own. Together they widen the theory's escape routes.

A hypothesis is not discredited merely because it is refined. Science and historical reasoning both refine hypotheses. The key question is whether the refinement was independently motivated and whether it creates new risky predictions. A refinement that only explains away a failed or unwanted case without adding new tests is much weaker.

10. Psychology Without Armchair Diagnosis

There is no responsible basis for diagnosing anonymous posters from these screenshots. The psychology worth studying is ordinary human cognition—including our own. Pattern detection is essential to learning, science, language, threat detection and historical reasoning. The same machinery can also find coherence in random or weakly related material.

Illusory pattern perception

Whitson and Galinsky reported six experiments in which reduced feelings of control increased illusory pattern perception across tasks including visual noise, stock-market correlations, conspiracies and superstitions. Van Prooijen, Douglas and De Inocencio later reported associations between illusory pattern perception and beliefs in conspiracies and supernatural phenomena. These studies do not show that every conspiracy claim is false or that every religious belief is an illusion. They show that perceived pattern and perceived meaning are psychological events that can occur even when the generating relationship is absent.

Sources: [Whitson & Galinsky, Science 2008](#) · [van Prooijen, Douglas & De Inocencio, 2018](#)

Mechanisms visible in the argument

Mechanism	How it can operate here
Selective attention	Once Cubs/Armageddon becomes the organizing frame, Cubs-adjacent films, actors, colors, numbers and political dates become unusually salient.
Confirmation asymmetry	Matches receive detailed development; nonmatches—such as 1908, 1910, 1935 and 1938 in the pennant chronology—were absent from the initial story.
Semantic elasticity	White becomes clothing, red becomes a flag, black becomes a building, wine becomes abstinence, balances become prices and justice.
Narrative compression	Complicated political eras are condensed into a single archetypal ruler and a single horse color.
Hindsight bias	Once 2016 is known to be historically memorable, prior material can seem as though it was “pointing” toward it all along.
Agency detection	Coincidences are interpreted through possible planners—Freemasons, occult actors, “deep state” people—before a documented causal mechanism is supplied.
Escalating coherence	Each new coincidence makes earlier coincidences feel less accidental, even when the new item was discovered using the same flexible search process.

The safest use of these concepts is reflexive: they tell the researcher what controls to build into the analysis. Count misses. Pre-register criteria. Search for disconfirming cases. Ask another person to code the same material. Separate a vivid story from a high likelihood ratio.

11. Scripture First: Revelation 5–6 and Zechariah

The thread quotes Revelation 6, but its biblical argument should begin one chapter earlier. Revelation 5 identifies who opens the sealed book. The heavenly song addresses the Lamb: “Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain...” (Revelation 5:9, KJV). Revelation 6 then repeats the agency: “when the Lamb opened one of the seals.”

SCRIPTURE The seals are opened by the Lamb. A baseball pennant is not named as an agent, key, condition or trigger in Revelation 5–6. A reader may propose that an earthly event coincides with a seal, but that is a separate interpretive claim requiring argument.

The first four seals, kept distinct

Seal	Horse	Textual attributes	Passage
First	white horse	bow; crown given; goes forth conquering and to conquer	Rev. 6:1–2
Second	red horse	takes peace; people kill one another; great sword	Rev. 6:3–4
Third	black horse	pair of balances; wheat/barley prices; oil and wine not hurt	Rev. 6:5–6
Fourth	pale horse	rider named Death; Hell follows; power to kill by sword, hunger, death, beasts	Rev. 6:7–8

Zechariah is the nearer biblical background

Before assigning the colors to twentieth- or twenty-first-century politicians, the reader should compare Scripture with Scripture. Zechariah 1 sees red, speckled and white horses sent by the LORD to walk to and fro through the earth. Zechariah 6 sees four chariots with red, black, white, and grisled/bay horses; the interpreting angel calls them “the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.” The imagery is not identical to Revelation 6, but it is a far closer canonical parallel than modern clothing colors or building glass.

SCRIPTURE Zechariah 6:1–8 supplies four colored horse teams, divine commissioning, and movement through the earth. Revelation’s horsemen should therefore be read first within this biblical symbolic world before modern correspondences are proposed.

Wars are not, by themselves, a timetable

Matthew 24:6 is unusually relevant to a theory that treats continuing war as confirmation: “ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” That verse does not settle every question about Revelation’s timing, but it does block a simple inference from “war exists” to “therefore the final sequence is now identified.”

Jesus also says, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man” and follows with “Watch therefore” (Matthew 24:36, 42). Acts 1:7 says, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” The emphasis is not indifference; it is humility joined to readiness.

Testing rather than scoffing

The New Testament does not commend the “take your meds” response. Acts 17:11 praises the Bereans because they “searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” First Thessalonians 5 holds two cautions together: “Despise not prophesyings” and “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” A Christian method can therefore reject both gullibility and reflexive contempt.

SCRIPTURE The posture is: hear carefully, search Scripture, test the factual claims, keep what survives, and refuse to state more certainty than the text and evidence allow.

Divination and privately constructed omen systems

Deuteronomy 18 prohibits divination and “observers of times,” then gives Israel a test for presumptuous prophetic speech. The immediate covenantal setting is ancient Israel, so the passage should not be flattened into a slogan against every attempt to interpret providence. Still, it supplies an important category distinction: Scripture does not invite God’s people to manufacture private omen systems from ordinary events and then give those systems divine authority.

That is the theological problem with calling baseball an “augur.” God may use signs in Scripture, but the sign is authoritative because God identifies it. The thread has not shown a biblical text identifying baseball standings as a divinatory instrument.

12. Four Major Interpretive Models of Revelation

Christians have not agreed on one historical mapping of Revelation. A fair paper should therefore distinguish the thread from the major interpretive traditions rather than pretending there is only one possible eschatological system.

Approach	Basic emphasis	Relation to thread
Preterist	Much of Revelation is read in relation to events near John’s own era; partial preterists still expect Christ’s future return and final consummation.	Would ask first how Revelation’s symbols addressed first-century churches; a Cubs code has no obvious textual anchor.
Historicist	The visions are mapped across successive eras of church/world history from the apostolic age toward the end.	Closest in method to assigning particular rulers to successive symbols, but vulnerable to subjective identification and disagreement over referents.
Futurist	Much of Revelation 4–22 is read as still-future historical fulfillment, often concentrated near the end.	Could allow future literal/historical fulfillments, but still needs textual reasons to identify specific modern persons or baseball events.
Idealist / spiritual	The visions portray recurring spiritual realities and the conflict of God’s kingdom with evil across the church age.	Would generally resist one-to-one identification of each horse with a single modern politician.
Eclectic / mixed	Combines insights: first-century context, recurring symbolism and future consummation.	Often asks what the text meant to original hearers, how the pattern recurs, and how final fulfillment may still lie ahead.

Sources: [Bible.org — interpretive models](#) · [Bible.org — four-view comparison](#) · [TGC commentary — overview and eclectic model](#)

The paper does not rank these traditions. Its narrower point is methodological: no major approach gives permission to ignore the actual distribution of Revelation’s symbols or to make modern identifications immune to disconfirmation.

13. What the Thread Gets Right

A careful rebuttal should leave the reader with more truth, not simply fewer beliefs. The visible thread gets a surprising amount of raw material right:

- Kinsella really did write a Cubs/Armageddon story, and the central sentence really links Armageddon to the Cubs’ next NL championship.

- The Cubs really did wait from 1945 to 2016 for another NL pennant, making the literary coincidence unusually memorable.
- Weeghman Park really was built for a Federal League club and later became the Cubs' home.
- Pete Crow-Armstrong's mother really did appear in Little Big League.
- Ted Turner really did manage the Braves for one game while owning the club.
- Ernie Banks really did play 2,528 games without a postseason appearance and is documented as a Prince Hall Mason.
- Numerous notable baseball figures really did belong to Masonic organizations.
- 1929 really was a major year in Stalin's defeat of the Right Opposition.
- The Nazis really did remain the largest Reichstag party in November 1932, and Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933.
- The COVID-19 period really did produce the largest one-year increase in measured global extreme poverty since the World Bank's monitoring series began in 1990.
- The Bears really did play 50 seasons at Wrigley Field.
- Early football really did produce enough deaths and serious injuries to drive major rule reform.
- Field of Dreams really did struggle with drought and severe insect conditions during production.
- The Billy Goat story is real as Cubs folklore, though no goat was sacrificed.

Preserving these points matters because the theory's appeal is not fabricated from nothing. It is built from a mixture of genuine facts, distorted facts, errors, and interpretive leaps. A good forensic analysis tells the reader which is which.

14. Where the Argument Fails

The central claim fails not because coincidences are philosophically impossible, but because the proposed chain does not survive its own strongest factual and textual tests.

Failure point	Why it matters
Kinsella wording	The OP says Kinsella did not specify the "next" pennant. He did.
Pennant dataset	The "exactly three times" claim omits four AL-first cases in the World Series era.
Causal bridge	Masonic memberships, film links and historical coincidences are real associations without evidence of coordination.
Stable symbolism	Colors and objects are decoded differently for each chosen figure.
Biblical distribution	The thread combines the red rider's sword with the black rider's balances.
Agency	Revelation says the Lamb opens the seals; baseball is not named as a trigger.
Timing	"Effects take years" and "horsemen need not overlap" widen the time window after the fact.
Target expansion	White Sox and Leafs become additional possible prophecy channels, increasing the number of ways to score a hit.

Historical overstatement	Warsaw Pact chronology, global poverty wording, Billy Goat “sacrifice,” and White Sox 2024 arithmetic are overstated or wrong.
Falsifiability	The theory never supplies a clear outcome that would force abandonment rather than reinterpretation.

15. Conclusion

The thread is best understood as a compelling exercise in apocalyptic pattern construction rather than as a demonstrated prophetic discovery. It begins with a coincidence that is genuinely worth noticing: Kinsella’s fictional God links the Cubs’ next pennant to Armageddon, and the Cubs did not win that pennant until the politically memorable year 2016. From there, however, the theory grows by searching a very large historical and cultural field for compatible details.

The deeper audit changes the picture. The story’s key word is “next.” The full pennant chronology produces seven AL-first cases rather than three. Several side claims survive checking, several need qualification, and several fail. Most importantly, the biblical symbols are not being held constant: they are repeatedly adapted to fit selected historical people. That is a warning sign independent of whether one reads Revelation as preterist, historicist, futurist, idealist or eclectically.

For Christian readers, the strongest response is not mockery. Revelation is serious Scripture; history is serious; claims about hidden coordination should be tested seriously. The controlling virtues are therefore sobriety and humility. First Thessalonians says not to despise prophecy and, in the same breath, to “Prove all things.” Acts praises people who searched the Scriptures to test what they heard. Matthew warns that wars do not by themselves mean “the end” has arrived. Revelation itself keeps Christ—the Lamb—at the center of the seals.

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV

That is a better research rule than either credulity or contempt. Keep the coincidences that are real. Correct the history that is wrong. Mark speculation as speculation. Demand a stable method before calling a pattern evidence. And never ask Scripture to say more than Scripture says.

SECOND-PASS FORENSIC APPENDICES

The appendices make the paper auditable. They separate the technical tests from the main narrative so that readers can inspect the underlying chronology, logic, psychology and Scripture without turning every paragraph of the main paper into a footnote.

Appendix A — Complete Cubs Pennant Chronology

The full World Series-era comparison is reproduced here because it directly tests the thread’s core numerical claim. “AL first” means the American League representative was determined before the Cubs clinched the National League pennant.

Year	Cubs clinch	AL club	AL clinch	Order
1906	Sep 19	White Sox	Sox Oct 3	NL first
1907	Sep 23	Tigers	Oct 5	NL first
1908	Oct 8	Tigers	Oct 6	AL first
1910	Oct 2	Athletics	Sep 19	AL first

Year	Cubs clinch	AL club	AL clinch	Order
1918	Aug 24	Red Sox	Sox Aug 31	NL first
1929	Sep 19	Athletics	Sep 14	AL first
1932	Sep 20	Yankees	Sep 13	AL first
1935	Sep 27	Tigers	Sep 21	AL first
1938	Oct 1	Yankees	Sep 19	AL first
1945	Sep 29	Tigers	Sep 30	NL first
2016	Oct 22	Cleveland	Oct 19	AL first

Observation: the political sequence selected in the thread (1929, 1932, 2016) is not the complete set of AL-first cases. Any revised theory must explain 1908, 1910, 1935 and 1938 without inventing a criterion solely to exclude them.

Appendix B — Probability and the Look-Elsewhere Effect

The thread asks about sportsbook odds and then adds the possibility of hidden manipulation. That mixes two very different probability questions: the ordinary chance of a sports result and the posterior probability of a covert-causation hypothesis.

A minimal probability toolkit

1. Define the event before it happens. “Cubs win NL pennant after AL pennant is settled” is testable; “something symbolically interesting happens around Chicago sports” is not.
2. Count opportunities. If we search many teams, seasons, colors, actors, numbers and political events, the chance of at least one impressive-looking coincidence rises.
3. Count misses as well as hits. Seven AL-first Cubs cases cannot be reduced to three because only three fit the preferred narrative.
4. Distinguish odds from evidence of manipulation. A long shot occurring is not evidence of fixing; fixing requires a separate likelihood model and independent evidence.
5. Use likelihood ratios conceptually: a coincidence matters when it is much more expected under the proposed theory than under ordinary chance plus flexible searching.

ILLUSTRATIVE FORMULA For N independent opportunities each having hit probability p , $P(\text{at least one hit}) = 1 - (1 - p)^N$. This is a teaching formula, not an estimate of the thread’s actual probability; the thread’s opportunities are not independent and p is not known.

Appendix C — Revelation 5–6 Verse-by-Verse Control

Text	What it says	Control on the thread
Rev. 5:9	The Lamb is worthy “to take the book, and to open the seals thereof.”	Controls agency: the Lamb, not an earthly sports event, opens the seals.
Rev. 6:1	The Lamb opens the first seal.	The scene itself repeats the agency.
Rev. 6:2	White horse; bow; crown given; conquering.	Any historical identification should account for the cluster, not only the color.

Rev. 6:3–4	Second seal; red horse; peace removed; killing; great sword.	The great sword belongs here.
Rev. 6:5–6	Third seal; black horse; balances; grain prices; oil and wine.	The balances belong here; the economic context is explicit.
Rev. 6:7–8	Fourth seal; pale horse; Death; Hell follows; power over a fourth of earth.	The thread’s title predicts this seal, yet its detailed person-mapping is mostly about the first three.
Rev. 6:9–17	Fifth and sixth seals follow with martyrs, cosmic disturbance and wrath.	The sequence is larger than the horsemen alone.

Appendix D — Zechariah Horsemen Cross-Reference

Zechariah provides two important horse visions. In Zechariah 1:8–11, red, speckled and white horses are associated with agents whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro through the earth. In Zechariah 6:1–8, four chariots carry red, black, white, and grised/bay horses; the angel calls them “the four spirits of the heavens.”

The point is not that Zechariah gives a one-to-one dictionary for Revelation. It is that Revelation’s imagery already lives in a biblical symbolic ecology involving divine authority, heavenly agents and movement through the earth. That canonical background deserves priority over modern jacket colors, flags and towers.

Appendix E — Interpretive Models of Revelation

The four-model comparison in Section 12 is expanded here as a guard against false certainty. Historicism is the model structurally closest to the thread because it maps visions onto successive historical developments. Yet historicist interpreters themselves have disagreed sharply over which events correspond to which symbols. Futurism can expect concrete future fulfillments without endorsing modern newspaper decoding. Preterism forces attention to the first-century audience. Idealism emphasizes recurring spiritual patterns. Eclectic approaches often combine those insights.

Sources: [Bible.org — interpretive models](#) · [TGC — Revelation commentary and model overview](#)

Appendix F — Claim Ledger

Post	Claim	Finding	Confidence
43019604	Kinsella says Cubs pennant precedes Armageddon	Confirmed, with crucial wording correction	High
43019604	Kinsella did not say “next”	Contradicted	High
43019604	Cubs had not won World Series since 1918	Incorrect; later self-corrected to 1908	High
43019604	Weeghman Park/Federal League origin	Confirmed	High
43019604	Cubs “stole” Wrigley in 1918	Misleading characterization	High
43019604	PCA’s mother in Little Big League	Confirmed	High
43019604	Wild Card ending predicted unknown future format	Misleading; format approved in 1993	High

Post	Claim	Finding	Confidence
43019604	Ted Turner owner-manager one game	Confirmed	High
43019604	Turner likely originated Georgia Guidestones	Unsupported by located evidence	Medium-high
43019604	Ernie Banks Cub entire career/no postseason/Mason	Confirmed in substance	High
43019604	AL-before-NL only 1929/1932/2016	Contradicted; seven cases	High
43019651	Stalin/Bukharin Nov. 1929 milestone	Substantially correct	High
43019651	Warsaw Pact counted as Stalin conquest	Chronologically anachronistic as stated	High
43019676	Nazi plurality Nov. 1932; Hitler chancellor Jan. 1933	Substantially correct with appointment nuance	High
43019676	Gas chambers left as doubtful alternative	Contradicted by overwhelming evidence	High
43019709	2020 extreme-poverty jump historic	Correct within World Bank series; overstated as all recorded history	High
43019709	Warp Speed was eugenic selection event	Unsupported	High
43019709	Nuremberg Code automatically applies to all recipients	Not established; category error without research-subject showing	High
43019709	Black rider has scales and sword	Textually incorrect; sword belongs to red rider	High
43019762	Bears played 50 seasons at Wrigley	Confirmed	High
43019790	1905-style football death toll severe	Confirmed in 1905; yearly generalization unsupported	High/medium
43019780	Cubs sacrificed goat	Contradicted; goat was live pet in curse folklore	High
43022094	White Sox needed five of last nine in 2024	Contradicted; MLB said at least seven	High
43022322	Hicks on 4y/\$44m contract	Contract amount confirmed; originally signed by Giants	High

Appendix G — Source Reliability Audit

Source class	Use	Limitation
Thread screenshots	Primary source for what was claimed	Excellent for wording/order; not proof of external facts.

Kinsella book preview / literary quotations	Primary/near-primary literary evidence	Best control for story wording and authorial framing.
MLB / National Archives / DoD / World Bank / CDC / NCAA / USHMM	Official/institutional records	Strong for the specific facts within institutional competence; still read critically.
SABR / Baseball Hall of Fame / AFI	Specialist historical organizations	Strong secondary/reference sources for baseball/film history.
Masonic grand lodge / Scottish Rite publications	Organizational self-record	Good evidence of claimed membership; not independent proof of broader influence.
Major journalism	Contemporaneous or reported secondary source	Useful when primary records are inaccessible; quality varies by topic.
Anonymous forum posts	Leads and hypotheses	Never treated as self-authenticating evidence.

Appendix H — Pattern-Matching Psychology

The thread is useful as a teaching example because it shows both sides of human pattern cognition: real connections are being found, and then the mind must decide how much explanatory weight each connection can bear. Psychological research gives us vocabulary, not a diagnosis.

- Apophenia / illusory pattern perception: perceiving meaningful relationships among unrelated or random stimuli.
- Confirmation bias: preferentially seeking, interpreting or remembering information that fits an existing hypothesis.
- Clustering illusion: treating naturally occurring runs or clusters as more structured than they are.
- Availability and salience: vivid names such as Hitler, Trump, Wrigley, 66, Armageddon and a goat are easier to retrieve and feel more informative.
- Proportionality intuition: large events can feel as though they require equally large or intentional causes, even when complex systems generate them.
- Agency detection: ambiguous outcomes are more readily understood through an intentional actor than through distributed or stochastic processes.
- Narrative coherence: a story that links many domains can feel truer because it is easier to remember and retell.
- Belief perseverance / rescue: when a core idea is important, failed details may be reinterpreted rather than allowed to count against it.

Sources: [Science — lack of control and illusory pattern perception](#) · [European Journal of Social Psychology — pattern perception and conspiracy/supernatural belief](#)

Appendix I — The Symbol Elasticity Test

Symbol	Text/history	Thread mapping	Elasticity introduced
White	white horse	Stalin's white jacket	Color moved from animal to clothing
Red	red horse	red flag / war	Color moved from horse to political symbolism
Black	black horse	Trump Tower / dark glass	Color moved from horse to building

Balances	black rider's object	food prices / justice	One object given multiple semantic domains
Sword	red rider's object	justice in Trump post	Borrowed from a different rider
Wine	"hurt not the ... wine"	Trump does not drink	Preservation command converted into personal abstinence
Warp speed	program name	Star Trek → Eugenics Wars	Allusive phrase imports unrelated fictional lore
Goat	live animal in 1945 folklore	"sacrifice"	Verb changed to create ritual significance

A code is strongest when the same transformation rule is used repeatedly. Here the rules are local to each desired match. That is why the result can feel symbolically rich while remaining weak as a test.

Appendix J — Prediction Rescue Map

Problem encountered	Rescue/expansion visible in thread	Methodological cost
Kinsella appears tied to a pennant	OP says not necessarily the next pennant	Conflicts with actual "next" wording
No immediate apocalypse	"Disasters take years to unfold"	Time window expands
Historical horsemen separated by decades	They need not all be alive at same time	Overlap constraint removed
Cubs theory may fail	White Sox could be "another prophecy"	Target set expands
Other sports enter conversation	Leafs also suggested	Opportunity set expands
Low-probability sports outcome	Speculative hidden manipulators added	Unobserved variable can explain any result

Appendix K — Prospective Falsifiability Protocol

If anyone wants to continue testing the theory fairly, the next version should be written before the triggering games. A minimal pre-registration would include:

- Exact trigger: which team, which league pennant, and whether "after the AL" means calendar date, game end time, or another condition.
- Exact biblical claim: what observable event counts as the Fourth Seal being opened.
- Exact time window: hours, days, months or years after the trigger.
- Exact geographic scope: local, national, or global.
- Quantitative threshold: for example, a specified mortality/famine/war measure rather than "a disaster."
- One decoding dictionary: colors, objects and numbers must mean the same kind of thing across candidates.
- Exclusion rule: unrelated teams or leagues cannot be added after the result.
- Failure condition: an outcome that would make the proponent say, in writing, "this version of the hypothesis was wrong."

BEST PRACTICE Archive the prediction with a timestamp and do not edit it after the event. If a revised theory is needed, label it Version 2 and test it on new data.

Appendix L — Kinsella Literary Analysis

Kinsella’s baseball fiction repeatedly makes the game a borderland between memory and imagination. In *The Last Pennant Before Armageddon*, the comic disproportion is part of the design: the fate of civilization is placed beside the long suffering of Cubs fans and the tactical decisions of a baseball manager. Nuclear-war anxiety gives the joke real dread.

That literary mechanism explains why the story is so fertile for later prophecy talk. It intentionally joins sacred vocabulary, baseball ritual, dream logic and world-ending stakes. But Kinsella’s own introduction refuses the move from imaginative magic to literal belief. He allows symbols and biblical retellings while explicitly identifying the work as fiction and entertainment.

Sources: [Kinsella book preview and introduction](#) · [Public Books — Kinsella and Cubs literary context](#)

Appendix M — The 2016 Problem

This appendix isolates the most important source-control issue.

14. Kinsella’s fictional statement says, “when the Cubs next win the National League Championship...”
15. The Cubs’ next National League pennant after the story was the 2016 pennant, their first since 1945.
16. Therefore a theory that moves Kinsella’s explicit next-pennant marker forward to a later Cubs pennant is no longer simply reading Kinsella; it is proposing a new interpretive rule.
17. That new rule might say 2016 began a long pre-Armageddon period. But unless “before Armageddon” receives a defined time horizon, almost any later date can be made consistent with it.

Sources: [Exact quotation — Inquirer](#) · [2016 pennant — MLB](#)

Appendix N — The Strongest Possible Case for the Thread

A steelman strips away the weakest claims and asks what remains if we grant every well-supported coincidence.

- Kinsella really wrote a Cubs/*Armageddon* story decades before the 2016 pennant.
- The Cubs’ next NL pennant did arrive in the politically memorable year 2016 after a 71-year drought.
- Baseball history around Chicago genuinely intersects with the Federal League, Wrigley ownership, Masonic memberships, Billy Goat folklore and films that later connect to Cubs personnel.
- 1929 and 1932 really are historically consequential years connected to Stalin’s consolidation and the Nazis’ electoral rise.
- 2016 really did combine the Cubs pennant and Trump’s election.
- Revelation 6 really does use white, red, black and pale horses associated with conquest, war, scarcity and death.

That is a respectable collection of coincidences. To cross the next evidentiary threshold, however, the theory would still need to show why the omitted pennant years do not count, why the symbol decoder is stable, why the modern figures are better fits than alternatives, and what independent evidence points to coordination or divine encoding. The steelman therefore makes the mystery more interesting without making the conclusion established.

Appendix O — Scripture Guardrails for Prophecy Claims

Passage	Research guardrail
Acts 17:11	Search the Scriptures to test what is taught.
1 Thess. 5:19–21	Do not despise prophecy; prove all things; hold fast what is good.
Matthew 24:4–6	Beware deception; wars and rumors of wars are not by themselves the end.

Matthew 24:36, 42–44	The day/hour is not humanly known; therefore watch and be ready.
Acts 1:7	Times and seasons are in the Father's authority.
Deut. 18:10–14	Israel is forbidden divination and observing times in the pagan manner.
Deut. 18:20–22	Presumptuous claims in God's name are subject to a fulfillment test.
Revelation 5:9; 6:1ff	The Lamb is worthy and opens the seals.

Appendix P - Primary-Source Thread Transcript

The six supplied thread captures are transcribed below so the source material can be read without enlarging screenshots. Spelling, capitalization, slang and profanity are preserved as closely as practical. Very long pasted Bible text from a modern English translation is summarized rather than reproduced; the paper uses the King James Version as its scriptural control. Reply arrows and image thumbnails are described only when they matter to the argument.

Original source: <https://libraryofrickandria.com/last-pennant/> | Original thread: <https://boards.4chan.org/x/thread/43019604>

CAPTURE 1 - Opening post and first reply

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:01:14 - No. 43019604 (OP)

If the Cubs win the NL Pennant after the AL Pennant the Fourth Seal Will Be Broken

Crazy Theory, I know, but here's the evidence I have, in no particular order. I'm not 100% sure, but I'm pretty sure:

WP Kinsella, Edmonton-area author of the Novel Shoeless Joe, later made into the movie Field of Dreams, wrote a short story called The Last Pennant Before Armageddon, in which the manager of the Cubs, Al Tiller, dreams that Cubs fans in the afterlife petition God to let the Cubs win the World Series again, which they haven't done since 1918 (when they stole Wrigley and made it their own).

God says he has decided the Cubs will win the last pennant before Armageddon. He does not say that the next pennant the Cubs win will be the last pennant, only that they will win the last pennant.

Baseball has widespread evidence of Masonic Influence, including many of the game's early superstars being Masons.

Wrigley Field used to be called Weeghman Park before it was stolen from the Federal League in 1918.

MVP Centerfielder Pete Crow-Armstrong's mother starred in Little Big League, where a recurring joke was that Billy Heywood, the manager/owner of the Twins, "Should've started Wegman" [as pitcher].

The film ends with the first-ever wildcard playoff.

You can't own and manage, only Ted Turner, likely originator of the Georgia Guidestones, has done that and was banned after one game from doing so.

Ernie Banks is regarded as the greatest player since 1918 to have never played a playoff game. He was a Mason and a Cub for his whole career.

The Cubs have won the National League Pennant AFTER the American League Pennant was resolved three times:

1929: Stalin gains undisputed control of the Soviet Union in November after Bukharin is removed from the Politburo

1932: Hitler's Nazis get a Plurality in the November Election and is elected Chancellor the following January. The Reichstag Fire and

March 5th election precede the start of spring training and the Enabling Act's passage occurs before Opening Day of 1933.

2016: Donald Trump wins...

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:01:50 - No. 43019606

take your meds asap

CAPTURE 2 - Revelation 6, Stalin and Hitler

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:17:46 - No. 43019631

Now, you might wonder why I put Trump in the company of Stalin and Hitler... especially going a whole term without starting a war that one time.

For that you have to read Revelations 6:

[The poster pastes Revelation 6:1-6 from a modern English translation, describing the opening of the first three seals: a white horse with a crowned conqueror carrying a bow, a red horse whose rider takes peace from the earth and receives a sword, and a black horse whose rider carries scales while a voice announces grain prices and says not to harm the oil and wine.]

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:21:07 - No. 43019638

CUBS WIN

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:29:42 - No. 43019651

(Sorry I screwed up the copy paste. Sitting in bed with an injury and I don't have a working phone to make it to the call-in shows atm, so this is the only way I can tell people)

So the first horseman rides a white horse. He is a conqueror bent on conquest.

Stalin conquers the most people in nominal terms in recorded history, when you include the Warsaw Pact states.

His iconic look includes a white jacket.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:36:14 - No. 43019676

Hitler enacts not just a deadly genocide (whether it's at his orders or they built no gas chambers or they just kept people in typhus-ridden hellholes until they died)... the World has basically been in a state of war ever since, from WWII through the Cold War and then the manufactured US Arab Wars starting with Gulf War One, War on Terror, etc...

Red Horse... Red Flag.

CAPTURE 3 - Trump, Warp Speed and the black-horse theory

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:42:09 - No. 43019697

To coincide with this, the leafs should win the cup again

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:46:10 - No. 43019709

KEK, anon, part of me wants it too, especially if all they have to do is flip a switch and 2 billion pseudovaxxed get explosive diarrhea and hysterical dancing until they all die... but quoth Richard Nixon, "but, that would be wrong."

Trump oversees, during the lockdowns, the largest absolute expansion of extreme poverty in recorded human history. He is always on about food prices and oil control (and doesn't drink).

Operation Warp Speed (itself a Star Trek Reference, hello Eugenics Wars and WW3, pathway to human ascension to the stars) was a Eugenicist Selection Event:

They took out people who would literally become accessories to violations of the Nuremberg Code for some jobfare and a side of fries. Scales and a sword aren't just about prices, but justice...

Oh, and he rode his intro at Trump Tower into the White House.

His penthouse is on the 66th Floor... Of a Black Tower

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:47:56 - No. 43019714

said the cuck, cubs will win and fuck yo mama afterwards touchdown!!!

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:49:41 - No. 43019721

To be fair, I don't know much about American Gridiron but CUBS WIN

CAPTURE 4 - Baseball as augury; Bears, films and the Billy Goat

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 03:58:56 - No. 43019738

These disasters take years to unfold, anon. The seal breaking is just putting the horseman in power. So if the Cubs win, the NL pennant, not the world series, and do it last, i.e. after the AL pennant is resolved... I'd worry about THAT period producing the horseman. I'm not saying the world is going to end in the offseason... so the Leafs have a shot.

I just think sports... baseball specifically... is quite possibly an augur. Maybe they reached WB because in Edmonton, the pitcher faces Mecca when they face Home Plate... and we're all a little psychic.

Also, Timothy Busfield is in Field of Dreams AND Little Big League... fwiw.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 04:10:00 - No. 43019762

The Chicago Bears did play 50 seasons at Wrigley Field, but baseball is not the massive rolling human sacrifice that is football.

The Bears did kill a guy in a game, but that was the season after they left Wrigley.

Oh, and the movie Field of Dreams was plagued by insects and drought, but that's just farms for you, I guess:

<https://people.com/timothy-busfield-explains-why-the-corn-in-field-of-dreams-had-to-be-insured-11793734>

Anonymous - 09/29/26 04:14:34 - No. 43019773

What I have seen of American Gridiron is most impressive, no wonder you guys need all that padding and armour considering how brutal it gets. Only thing we use in our footy is maybe a cup for protection and that's it.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 04:16:45 - No. 43019780

I mis-typed when the Cubs last won the WS, that was 1908, I was just saying the epic World Series curse was just normal luck by the time they stole Wrigley in 1918... and have you ever noticed how their logo looks like a Copyright symbol?

Only major league team I know of to sacrifice a goat...

CAPTURE 5 - Football violence, altruism and manipulation speculation

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 04:21:05 - No. 43019790

It's an awful meat-grinder of a sport and I hate it. It causes a terrifying amount of CTE. Baseball is better, and if only we had promotion-relegation, it would be so much better.

Also, some of the padding might be why it gets so brutal, but then I think about the dozen-or-three people the sport killed every year from the 1890s on and dunno.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 04:40:57 - No. 43019819

But we love it. Doesn't matter, that primal urge. That ancestral urge to watch people get fucked up. We can claim we're civilized all we want, but there's still that bloodlust in humans. Still that primal inheritance from centuries, millennia of our ancestors. Don't give a fuck what any soft cock says about muh morals, they still the same bloodthirsty cunt deep down as anyone else.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 05:02:55 - No. 43019857

I agree that primally we love it... that's our animal nature. But we have an internal sense of right and wrong too. We have altruism; a capacity for love, and it is often just as thrilling to make someone's day by doing good, isn't it? What would Armageddon be but the great war between those two impulses?

Anonymous - 09/29/26 06:39:37 - No. 43020044

Oh yeah, I won't deny that. While humans have capacity for cruelty, they also have capacity for great compassion such as caring for small animals, hell the ultimate compassion is sacrificing your life for someone else. But that compassion was paid for in blood, and still. We're all bloodthirsty cunts whether we want to admit it or not.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 06:57:42 - No. 43020093

Brewers fan here. Not gonna happen. Lol. LMAO even.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 08:10:53 - No. 43020209

Sportsbook gives 9-1... let's say 11-1. If they did pull it off, what do you think the odds are it's in a long series?

Then add the degree to which these deep state occult people have plans and rationalize messing with the contest...

It can still happen, I just pray it won't. But please do be ready to send them to the shadow realm in the NLDS if they get lucky.

CAPTURE 6 - White Sox branch and 6-3 result

Source transcription from the user-supplied thread capture.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 17:57:28 - No. 43022029

Can do.

If the White Sox win it all... That's another prophecy.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 18:02:29 - No. 43022053

Whitesox are doing well. Put twenty bucks down on them winning the WS, pledged to spread most of it around to random people we bump into if they win the whole thing, since the Southsiders going for it may take some of the energy from filthy casuals out there.

Updoots for those focused on the faith and not the miracle, so you don't see the live broadcast, just reports of the games:

<https://www.fangraphs.com/scores?date=2026-09-29>

Anonymous - 09/29/26 18:11:50 - No. 43022094

Did you know the White Sox had to win 5 of their last 9 in 2024 to stave off having the worst record in modern pro baseball?

Last time I was this baseball-schizo, I declared this was the make-up series for 1919.

Astros just sacrificed to move the runner to 2nd... then to 3rd with 2 out, down 3-0 in the bottom of the 3rd.

Anonymous - 09/29/26 18:56:02 - No. 43022322

Jordan Hicks (Take that Alex Jones) who is on a 4-year, \$44m contract with the White Sox came in at the top of the 4th innings and is done now after getting 4 outs...

Ya Gotta Believe!

Anonymous - 09/29/26 20:54:05 - No. 43022692

White Sox win 6-3. Less loose in Chi-Town for a 4th seal break. Not all the horsemen have to be alive at the same time. We can have more time to get our shit together, but one knows not when the master returns... especially with the expanded playoff structure.

Master Timeline — 1908 to 2026

Date	Event relevant to thread
1908	Cubs win World Series; AL pennant (Detroit) was clinched before Cubs' NL pennant.
1910	AL Athletics clinch before Cubs NL pennant.
1914	Weeghman Park opens for Federal League Chicago club.
1916	Cubs move into Weeghman Park.

Date	Event relevant to thread
1918	Cubs win NL pennant; lose World Series to Boston; Weeghman exits ownership around this period.
1929	Athletics clinch AL before Cubs NL; Bukharin removed from Politburo in November.
1932–33	Yankees clinch AL before Cubs NL; Nazis remain largest Reichstag party in Nov. 1932; Hitler appointed chancellor Jan. 1933.
1935	Tigers clinch AL before Cubs NL.
1938	Yankees clinch AL before Cubs NL.
1945	Cubs clinch NL before Detroit clinches AL; Billy Goat episode occurs during World Series.
1984	The Thrill of the Grass published in book form; Kinsella's Armageddon story circulates in this era.
1989	Field of Dreams released, adapted from Shoeless Joe.
1993	MLB owners approve three divisions and a Wild Card for 1994.
1994	Little Big League released; strike cancels postseason.
2016 Oct. 19	Cleveland wins AL pennant.
2016 Oct. 22	Cubs win NL pennant—their next one after 1945.
2016 Nov.	Trump wins presidential election.
2020	COVID-19 shock produces largest one-year rise in extreme poverty since World Bank global monitoring began in 1990.
2024	White Sox finish 41–121, modern-era MLB loss record.
2026 Sep. 29	Thread screenshots: Cubs/Seal theory develops; White Sox branch added.

Rules for Testing Extraordinary Pattern Claims

1. Quote the source exactly before interpreting it.
2. Enumerate the full dataset; do not begin with only the matching cases.
3. Separate observation, association, causation and theological interpretation.
4. Write the decoding rule before searching for matches.
5. Count misses, alternative matches and the number of places searched.
6. Prefer primary records and sources closest to the fact in question.
7. Treat “unknown” as unknown—not as evidence for a preferred hidden actor.
8. Do not turn a literary allusion into operational intent without evidence.

9. Keep symbol meanings stable across cases.
10. State a time window and a failure condition.
11. Pre-register future predictions and archive them before the event.
12. Do not diagnose people from their arguments.
13. For Scripture, read the immediate context and canonical parallels before current-event mapping.
14. Distinguish what Scripture says from what an interpretive system infers.
15. Let correction improve the theory—or falsify it. Do not rescue every miss indefinitely.

References and External Links

Links below were checked for this paper. Institutional sources are listed before specialist and secondary sources. Access dates are September 29–30, 2026.

Category	Source
Original source	Library of Rickandria — original publication
W. P. Kinsella / literary context	The Thrill of the Grass — book preview and author introduction
W. P. Kinsella / literary context	Philadelphia Inquirer, “The last pennant before Armageddon?”
W. P. Kinsella / literary context	Public Books, “How the Cubs Won”
Film history	American Film Institute catalog — Field of Dreams
Chicago Cubs / MLB	Wrigley Field history
Chicago Cubs / MLB	Wrigley Field FAQ
Chicago Cubs / MLB	Cubs franchise timeline
Chicago Cubs / MLB	2016 NL pennant
MLB / film	Pete Crow-Armstrong’s mother in Little Big League
MLB format	Los Angeles Times, owners approve Wild Card format (1993)
Baseball history	SABR — Ted Turner’s one game as Braves manager
Georgia history	New Georgia Encyclopedia — Georgia Guidestones
Freemasonry	Illinois Prince Hall Grand Lodge — famous Illinois Masons
Freemasonry	Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago — baseball exhibit
Ernie Banks	MLB — Banks facts and postseason record
Soviet history	1000 Schlüsseldokumente — Nov. 17, 1929 Bukharin resolution
Cold War	U.S. State Department Historian — Warsaw Pact, 1955
Nazi history	USHMM — The Nazi Party
Nazi history	USHMM — Hitler Comes to Power
Holocaust	USHMM — Nazi Gas Chambers
2016 election	National Archives — Electoral College results
U.S. military history	Department of Defense — April 2017 Syria strike
Global poverty	World Bank — pandemic extreme-poverty reversal

Category	Source
COVID-19 program	Department of Defense — Operation Warp Speed
Research ethics	HHS Office of Research Integrity — Nuremberg Code
Football history	Chicago Bears — baseball stadiums / Wrigley
Football history	NCAA institutional history — 1905 fatalities and reforms
CTE	CDC — repeated head impacts and CTE
Film production	People — Timothy Busfield on Field of Dreams drought and bugs
Cubs folklore	SABR — Curse of the Billy Goat
Psychology	Whitson & Galinsky (2008), Lacking control increases illusory pattern perception
Psychology	van Prooijen, Douglas & De Inocencio (2018), Connecting the dots
Revelation interpretation	Bible.org — Interpretive Models for Revelation
Revelation interpretation	Bible.org — Revelation, Four Views
Revelation interpretation	The Gospel Coalition — Revelation commentary and interpretive approaches
White Sox 2024	MLB — 36–117 with nine games remaining
White Sox 2024	MLB — 121st loss record
Jordan Hicks	San Francisco Giants — four-year, \$44m contract
Pennant chronology	1906 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1906 AL clinch record
Pennant chronology	1907 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1907 AL clinch record
Pennant chronology	1908 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1908 AL clinch record
Pennant chronology	1910 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1910 AL clinch record
Pennant chronology	1918 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1918 AL clinch record
Pennant chronology	1929 Cubs clinch record
Pennant chronology	1929 AL clinch record

Category	Source
Pennant chronology	<u>1932 Cubs clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1932 AL clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1935 Cubs clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1935 AL clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1938 Cubs clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1938 AL clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1945 Cubs clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>1945 AL clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>2016 Cubs clinch record</u>
Pennant chronology	<u>2016 AL clinch record</u>

Biblical Text Used

Scripture quotations are from the user-supplied King James Bible, Pure Cambridge Edition. Principal passages used: Deuteronomy 18; Zechariah 1 and 6; Matthew 24; Acts 1 and 17; 1 Thessalonians 5; Revelation 5–6. Interpretive comments are the paper’s analysis and are distinguished from the biblical text.

Research note: external webpages can change after publication. The source title, institution and URL are provided so later readers can verify or archive them independently.