

John 20: 24-29 and How Nearly 100 Million NFL Fans Got Juked in 2012

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QuantitativeSynchronicity.Com

Introduction

Zeitgeists are funny things.

They can make us feel that ‘we’ know a story, *even when we don’t*.

That’s exactly what’s going on when it comes to one of the most famous NFL plays of this era. Some fans think they know the so-called “*Tim Tebow John 3:16*” story from 2012. The truth is, many fans don’t even know half of what makes this story interesting, as we showed in these two earlier SSRN papers.

This essay introduces details that were not mentioned or fully developed in the two earlier papers. It may be regarded as an easy entry to point to the subject of QSD in general, or this new empirical category called Quantitative Synchronicity Data.

It may have been done elsewhere earlier, but the existence of synchronicity was *formally* established in our flagship paper, via three different case studies and the scientific method’s *null hypothesis test*.

This essay is more than a sample of the case study we call QSD-1. It also shows a hint of what many modern thinkers have been overlooking, in their often smugly expressed certainty that chance explains away **all** instances of so-called synchronicity.

Those thinkers have already been answered.

AI concludes unanimously that the QSD-1 data is not random, that chance is not a remotely plausible interpretation, and that no amount of group-think and fancy degrees is going to change that.

As such, the best question asks this:

How much of this stuff has been happening right under our (snobby) noses?

Grant, Mark, *Global Synchronicity, the Scientific Method, and Three Datasets That Classical Science Cannot Explain* (August 04, 2025). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5379106> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5379106>

Grant, Mark, *Where John 3:16 Meets $P < .05$: How NFL Patterns Defeat Chance in the Scientific Arena* (September 10, 2025). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5471631> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5471631>

Revisiting the ‘John 3:16’ Past

This essay presents insights that weren’t mentioned or fully discussed in these, our two previous SSRN papers on this subject. This story actually concerns two games, with the most noted and essential details going as follows.




1. In 2009, Tebow wore John 3:16 on his eye-black. He did this 33 days after he felt a Calling to do just that, in the tunnel prior to the 2008 Southeastern Conference title game. Tebow went on to lead his Florida Gators to the national championship in an MVP performance that **compelled around 90 million people to look up John 3:16.**

2. Exactly three years later, Tebow threw an 80-yard touchdown pass on the first play of overtime in an NFL playoff game between his Denver Broncos and the Pittsburgh Steelers. As the record shows, the crazy ending fit the Tebow narrative well at the time, during his brief tenure as Denver’s starting quarterback.

Moments later, things took an eerie twist. Tebow, who famous for his unabashed love of Christianity, had thrown for *exactly* 316 yards with that final pass. This highly detailed compelled millions of fans to remember that famous college game when Tebow wore *John 3:16*. Four other 316s were noted in the next 24 hours. These details compelled another 90 million people to look up John 3:16, as fans had exactly three years earlier. Here’s the passage:

John 3:16 KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

ABCDEFGHI	"1 in N"	Data points reframed to include Comparable outcomes aka Comps
A	1 in 50	Tebow 'earns' exactly 316 yards on game ending play, locks in all other game data
B	16000	Tebow earns exactly 316 yards on exactly 10 'plays' for 31.6 average per play
C	<10	'Turnover' on a 3rd and 16 play
D	<10	Pittsburgh Time of Possession exactly 31 minutes 6 seconds
E	<10	31.6 : TV audience share on final play (needs confirmation, not falsified in 12 years)
F	<10	316 x 6 days : Tebow's 'Broken Leg Game' to "John 3:16" game Jan 8, 2009
G	<10	316 weeks : Tebow chooses to attend Florida to the '316' game Jan 8 2012
H	<10	3 games/16 point ave margin : Denver's last three games before Jan 8 2012 '316' game
I	<10	3 games/16 point ave margin : Pittsburgh's last three games before Jan 8 2012 '316' game
NH Test 1	< 1 in 8 TRILLION! vs > 1 in 20 : Science's Null Hypothesis threshold	
Non Random  vs  Random		 H & I found at Wikipedia

In all, there are *at least* nine 316s — four more than the amount usually noted.

As teams of AI reviewers agree, the implications are **devastating** to the belief that this data was generated non-randomly. We have an outcome that Marxists would insist was made up if it could be

confined to the unknowable past because the story is too relevant and too internally coherent and impossibly improbable. That option is off the table here.

These things should be noted because some people would prefer that others don't know about this information. One would think that the secular materialists and outspoken 'anti-Christian' thinkers would falsify the QSD-1 "John 3:16" data if they could, as a priority. They have not thus far, nor says AI, can they. On my website I have a time-clock running, to count how long its been since this data was made public at SSRN.

The 316 cluster is only the beginning in the Tebow story. As my second paper plainly shows, the 2012 Denver-Pittsburgh game displays other data that reflect the Tim Tebow and Denver Broncos narratives with similarly compelling precision.

In this essay I will only mention what I consider to be the most potent of those *other* associations, the findings that appears to relate most *emphatically* to the John 3:16 *theme*.

Overlooking the Present

The Tebow-Thomas *Read Option* Interpretation

In football, the offense sometimes tries to get the defense to commit to one thing in order to create an opening for something else. One such play is called the 'read option.'

When applied to this case, the game film clearly shows that nearly 100 million NFL fans bit too hard on the past by fixating on only Tebow and that game where he wore John 3:16 that one time in college.

Talk about busted coverage. Had the multitudes as carefully examined the present, they would have seen the *fulfillment* of John 3:16 staring themselves in the face **through the same play**.

1 of 2 - 20, 24–29 Hut!

The first and final play of overtime began on the 20-yard line.

It ended with Demaryius Thomas earning Denver's 24th through 29th points.

That's how the game ended. There was no extra-point conversion attempt.

So, think of this play starting with 20 and ending with 24–29. The perspective may be novel, but it is literally true. That's what counts.

2 of 2 - Prater's 20, Thomas and those Pittsburgh Defenders

In this context it becomes vital to know about Matt Prater's opening kickoff in this the so-called "316" game. It traveled 65 yards before hitting an upright and bouncing back on the field, where it settled on the 20-yard line exactly.

(This, to start a game played by two teams whose 3 previous contests had each been decided by an average of exactly 16 points, with the temperature at kickoff being a positively biblical 40 degrees.)

Seen in this light, Prater's kick may appear to foreshadow the dramatic final play, through the common element, 20.

A very similar kind of thing occurs at the end of the final play, where Demaryius Thomas was chased down by Steelers number 24 and 29 on the way to closing out this play.

In effect, the final play does more than deliver a statistically impossible cluster of 316s that are plainly relevant to John 3:16. It also doubles down on 20 and 24-29, and here's why that is so very interesting:

The pairing delivered by Demaryius Thomas correlates twice to John 20: 24-29: the fulfillment of John 3:16, with John 20 24-29 being the only place in the bible where the story of Doubting Thomas appears.

So, this is what I mean (playfully) when I say that 90 million fans bit too hard on some sort of metaphorical *read option* play. This *John 20: 24-29* connection has been staring us in the collective face ever since 2012, and ever since that first of five 316s was noticed.

Nobody noticed what was going on in the *present* because the *past* associations were so compelling.



Is this an indictment on NFL fans then? What about those Tebowmaniacs? My money is on our social conditioning.

Occam's Razor has spoken, friends. Chance fails miserably here. It is the truly 'irrational' explanation according to AI and basic statistical science.

And since dismissive explanations like confirmation bias and beliefs like secular materialism also fail here, because they rely on chance being plausible, it becomes reasonable to consider the possibility that this story is the result of a brilliant play-call on the part of that Offensive Coordinator in the Sky?

John 20:24–29 KJV

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger; and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

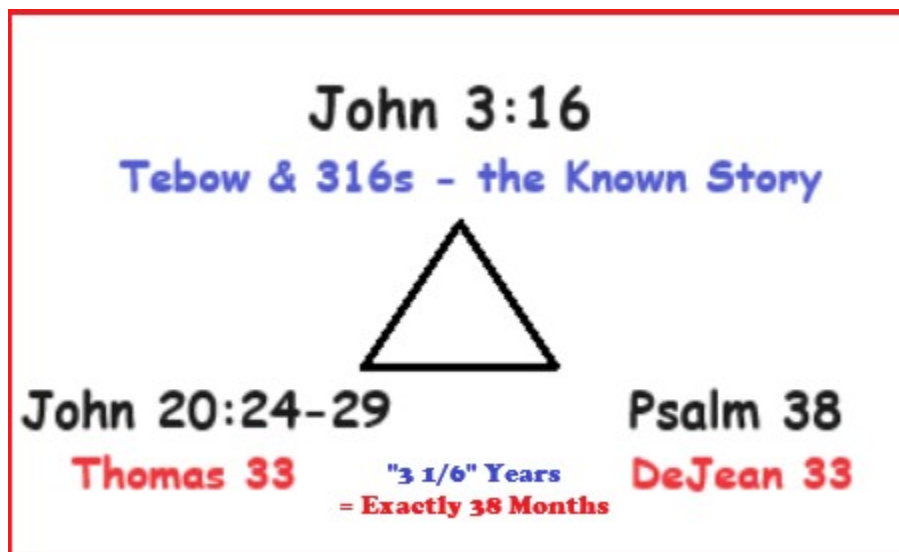
Stretching the Field — The Future

Nearly 10 years after the Denver-Pittsburgh game, Demaryius Thomas died at the age of 33, 16 days before his next birthday.

Thomas's death provides a perfect correlation to the multi-layered nature of John 3:16, accounting for the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus whose Passion occurred at the age of 33.

It also discreetly recalls that *Calling* Tebow said he received 33 days prior to the national championship game, where he wore John 3:16. Tebow's *Calling* took place on Saint Nicholas's feast day, with Demaryius Thomas having been born on Christmas.

Around a year ago now, I began publishing some of my research on this story and others. That being the case, this "Tim Tebow — Demaryius Thomas" story was on my mind at the time of Super Bowl 59. At some point I heard the announcer say that a "3rd and 16" play was coming up. That got my attention for reasons just mentioned.



About two seconds later, a guy intercepted a pass and ran the ball back for a pick-six TD. The player was Cooper DeJean (French for 'of John'), number 33.

DeJean's number made me think of Thomas's passing at age 33, so I looked there next.

That's how I learned that Demaryius Thomas died *exactly* 38 months earlier.

That was certainly on point, since DeJean ran 38 yards for a TD after his interception on that 3rd and 16 play.

And Demaryius Thomas had caught Tim Tebow's pass on the 38-yard line in the Denver-Pittsburgh game. Check the game film as you think about this.

The number 38 was functioning like quite the hub. Looking closer, I realized that the duration between these episodes was exactly 3 years and 2 months, or exactly 3 years and 1/6 of a year in terms of months. Another highly concise 316, derived from a 3rd and 16 play seen live worldwide by well over 200 million people.

One reason why I find this particular case study so fascinating, is because it captured the attention of so many Christian football fans, from Tebowmaniacs on up. Despite this, nearly 100 million fans of all subcultures missed what Demaryius Thomas brought to the table completely.

Is this an indictment on NFL fans?

Or, is their massive oversight best explained by the majesty of that great Offensive Coordinator in the Sky?

Recalling Cooper DeJean, it certainly seemed like the number 38 was being played up. So, I asked AI if 38 had any noted significance to the John 3:16 theme. The kind of thing that was established in the biblical community long before I asked.

I was promptly directed to Psalm 38, a passage that has long been associated with the John 3:16 theme. Psalm 38 is 22 verses long, and Super Bowl 59 was played on Cooper's 22nd birthday:

Psalm 38 KJV

1 O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

2 For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.

4 For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

5 My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.

6 I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

7 For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh.

8 I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

9 Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

10 My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

11 My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

12 They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

13 But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth.

14 Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

15 For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

16 For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

17 For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me.

18 For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

19 But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied.

20 They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is.

21 Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me.

22 Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

In Closing

There is much more to this episode which you can learn about at the link below. Everything is offered at no cost and in PDF.

Don't let the page count scare you off. The main body of the paper below is much shorter than the total page count.

Screen grabs of every detail mentioned have been provided per Carl Sagan. Simply put, this is a story that future generations must NOT believe without such direct evidence.

Please consider sharing.

Where John 3:16 Meets $P < .05$: How NFL Patterns Defeat Chance in the Scientific Arena