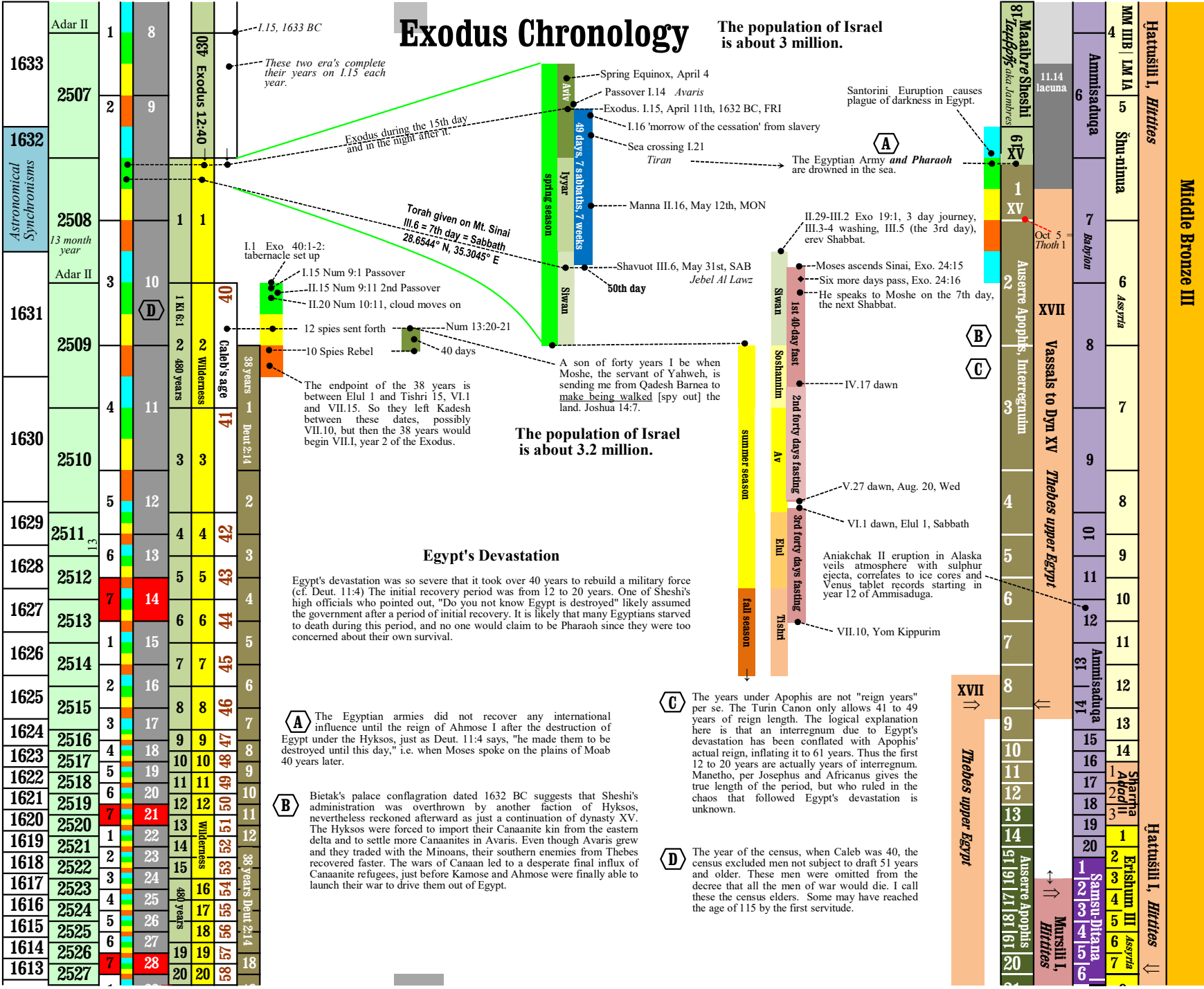
Exodus Chronology

The population of Israel is about 3 million.



Egypt's Devastation

Egypt's devastation was so severe that it took over 40 years to rebuild a military force (cf. Deut. 11:4) The initial recovery period was from 12 to 20 years. One of Sheshi's high officials who pointed out, "Do you not know Egypt is destroyed" likely assumed the government after a period of initial recovery. It is likely that many Egyptians starved to death during this period, and no one would claim to be Pharaoh since they were too concerned about their own survival.

A The Egyptian armies did not recover any international influence until the reign of Ahmose I after the destruction of Egypt under the Hyksos, just as Deut. 11:4 says, "he made them to be destroyed until this day," i.e. when Moses spoke on the plains of Moab 40 years later.

B Bietak's palace conflagration dated 1632 BC suggests that Sheshi's administration was overthrown by another faction of Hyksos, nevertheless reckoned afterward as just a continuation of dynasty XV. The Hyksos were forced to import their Canaanite kin from the eastern delta and to settle more Canaanites in Avaris. Even though Avaris grew and they traded with the Minoans, their southern enemies from Thebes recovered faster. The wars of Canaan led to a desperate final influx of Canaanite refugees, just before Kamose and Ahmose were finally able to launch their war to drive them out of Egypt.

C The years under Apophis are not "reign years" per se. The Turin Canon only allows 41 to 49 years of reign length. The logical explanation here is that an interregnum due to Egypt's devastation has been conflated with Apophis' actual reign, inflating it to 61 years. Thus the first 12 to 20 years are actually years of interregnum. Manetho, per Josephus and Africanus gives the true length of the period, but who ruled in the chaos that followed Egypt's devastation is unknown.

D The year of the census, when Caleb was 40, the census excluded men not subject to draft 51 years and older. These men were omitted from the decree that all the men of war would die. I call these the census elders. Some may have reached the age of 115 by the first servitude.