

March 2017 Highlight

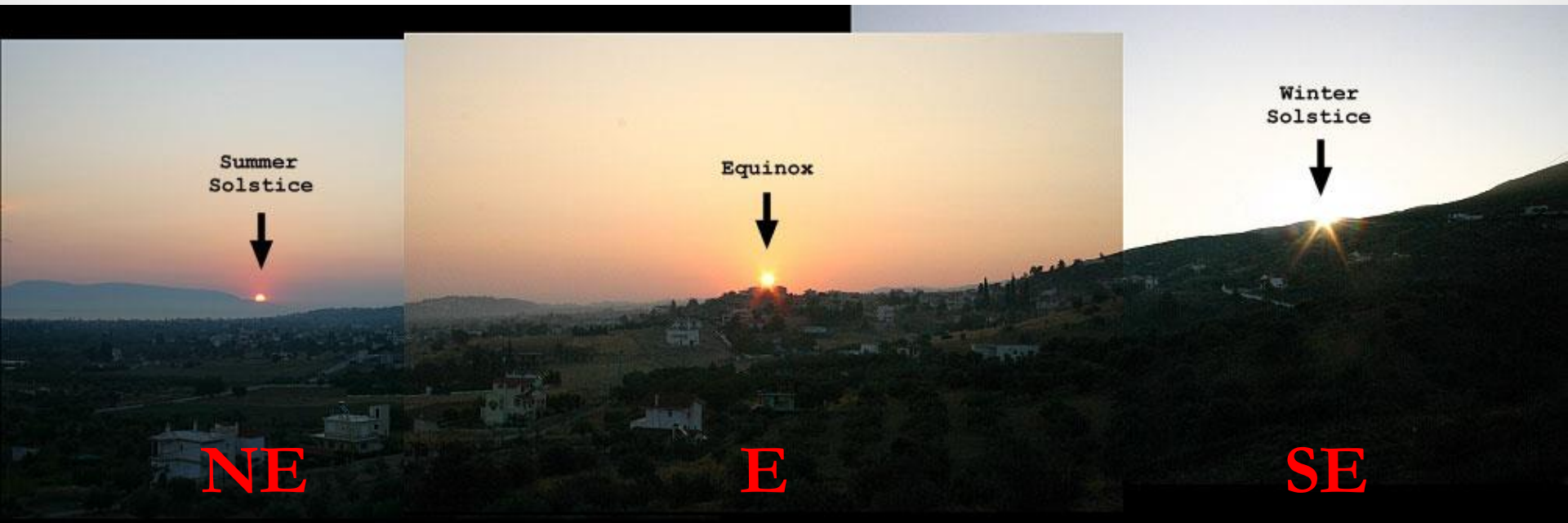
The Vernal Equinox – March 20th

- ★ On **Monday, March 20th**, at 6:29 a.m. EDT, the Sun begins its journey north of the celestial equator, bringing spring to the northern hemisphere and autumn to the southern hemisphere.
- ★ This event is called the “**vernal equinox**” in the northern hemisphere, when plants are beginning to “green”.
- ★ On this day all places on Earth experience nearly equal amounts of daylight and darkness – about 12 hours of each. “Equinox” literally means “equal night”.
- ★ For all places on Earth at the equinox, the Sun rises due east and sets due west.

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Montage of Summer Solstice, Equinox and Winter Solstice sunrises from a small Greek town showing the seasonal motion of the Sun.



Note: only on the Equinoxes does the Sun rise due East and set due West!