

# September 2017 Highlight: The Autumnal Equinox

- ★ **Autumn begins** in the northern hemisphere at 4:02 p.m. EDT on **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**.
- ★ This day marks a point in the Earth's tilted orbit where all places on the planet experience equal amounts of night – “equi” (equal) “nox” (night) – about 12 hours. And hence equal amounts of daylight as well.
- ★ The fall equinox is one of 2 time periods during the year when the Sun actually rises in the east and sets in the west – the other is the spring equinox.
- ★ This September Equinox marks the beginning of spring in the southern hemisphere.

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### The Autumnal Equinox – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Montage of summer solstice, equinox and winter solstice sunrises from a small Greek village, showing the seasonal motion of the Sun.



**Only on the equinoxes does the Sun rise due east and set due west!**