

STAR GAZERS
SG 1711M - 1M
MARCH 13-19, 2017

"EQUINOX" (REPEAT OF 1311)

JAMES: THIS MONDAY, MARCH 20TH, SPRING OFFICIALLY BEGINS AT 6:49 A.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME.

DEAN: BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY WE CALL SPRING, SPRING? LET'S SHOW YOU!

---(STOP)

JAMES: WELL, SPRING IS SIMPLY SHORT FOR THE PHRASES, "SPRING OF THE LEAF" AND "SPRING OF THE YEAR." SPRING OF THE LEAF IS OBVIOUS BECAUSE LEAVES DO LITERALLY SPRING UP OUT OF BRANCHES AT THIS TIME. BUT WHAT DOES SPRING OF THE YEAR MEAN?

DEAN: BEFORE 1752 IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA, THE NEW YEAR BEGAN ON MARCH 25TH, THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING. IN OTHER WORDS THE NEW YEAR SPRANG UP AT THE SAME TIME THE LEAVES SPRANG UP. IN FACT, WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON AND BEN FRANKLIN WERE YOUNG, THEY ALL WISHED EACH OTHER "HAPPY NEW YEAR" ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING UNTIL THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT REFORMED THE CALENDAR AND DECLARED THAT AFTER 1752 THE NEW YEAR WOULD BE CELEBRATED ON JANUARY 1ST.

JAMES: SO HAPPY SPRING AND HAPPY 'OLD' NEW YEAR!

BOTH: KEEP LOOKING UP!

---(STOP)