

# The Revival At Kilsyth, Part I

By William Chalmers Burns

## **Master Ministries International, Inc.**

2700 Marfitt Road, #315  
East Lansing, MI 48823-6338

Website: <http://www.masterministries.org/>

Online Sermons: <http://masterministries.sermonaudio.com>

"Meanwhile, at Kilsyth, the Lord was beginning to move in a striking manner. In order to stir up the believers to pray for revival and the salvation of lost souls, William's father decided to preach in the churchyard from the gravestone of James Robe. It was the 100th anniversary of the glorious awakening, which took place under Robe's ministry in the church at Kilsyth.

"In his message he pleaded with the Christian community to prepare their own hearts for revival. 'God is not dead,' he cried, 'The gospel has lost none of its power. It is we Christians who have lost OUR power with God. God is able right now to give us the same times of blessing that He gave this church one hundred years ago and even greater! Are you willing to let God search your hearts to see that there are no sins which grieve God and keep back the blessing?'

"The believers did not harden their hearts against the message of God, but sought the Lord's face in true repentance and humiliation. There was a quickening among the 'dry bones.' There was 'the sound of the wind in the mulberry trees.'

"Into this atmosphere young William came from Dundee to have sweet fellowship with the Lord and His people in his own home church during the days of Holy Communion, when large numbers would come together to remember the cost of their redemption even the precious blood of Christ.

"He came only as a member of the local church and not to preach. But God had another plan. It was evident to his uncle, Dr. Burns, that his nephew was under the Spirit's anointing and so he asked him to speak in one of the services in his place.

"He preached on Saturday and Sunday and so deep was the impression made by his discourses that he was urged by his uncle and father to preach once more on Tuesday in the market place. That Tuesday, July 23, 1839, remains one of the greatest historic days of all revival records.

"It was the intention of our young evangelist to return to Dundee by horse that same afternoon. Tuesday morning dawned. A MORNING FIXED FROM ALL ETERNITY IN JEHOVAH'S COUNSELS AS AN ERA IN THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION.

"During the previous night, the godly people of Kilsyth had forgotten to sleep, so busy they were in prayer. For many weeks William Burns himself had taken no rest and given his Lord no rest.

"Because of rain, the vast crowd who had assembled in the market place had now to assemble in the church building. The building was thronged by men and women, all in their working clothes, and among them some of the wickedest and most profligate of the whole district.

"They sang the 102nd Psalm, and when the speaker read the lines:

‘Her time for favour which was set,

Behold, is now come to an end,’

the word NOW touched his own heart and encouraged the hope that God’s set time was actually at hand."

(This report is taken from the book by James Alexander Stewart, D. D.: William Chalmers Burns, A Man With A Passion For Souls (Lamplighter Publications: Alexandria, LA) p. 21-23.)