Bible questions plan week 37 day 1
Hebrews 12
World English Bible British Edition

Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians to convince them not to abandon their faith by going back to the law of Moses. It was relevant to them and is relevant to us showing that Jesus is the final fulfilment of everything in the Old Testament.

1 Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
2 looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What are we called to lay aside and why?

3 For consider him who has endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, that you don't grow weary, fainting in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to blood, striving against sin. 5 You have forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children, "My son, don't take lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by him; 6 for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and chastises every son whom he receives."*

How should we react when we are disciplined?

** Quotation from Proverbs 3 v 11 and 12*

7 It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn't discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not children.
9 Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days disciplined us as seemed good to them, but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness.

How is God's discipline different from that of human fathers?

11 All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore lift up the hands that hang down and the feeble knees,* 13 and make straight paths for your feet,** so what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

What does chastening yield?

** Quotation from Isaiah 35 v 3*

*** Quotation from Proverbs 4 v 26*

14 Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord,
15 looking carefully lest there be any man who falls short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you and many be defiled by it,
16 lest there be any sexually immoral person or profane person, like Esau,* who sold his birthright for one meal. 17 For you know that even when he afterward desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for a change of mind though he sought it diligently with tears.

What dangers are we warned about?

** See Genesis 25 v 29 to 34 and 27 v 36 to 38*

18 For you have not come to a mountain that might be touched and that burnt with fire, and to blackness, darkness, storm, 19 the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which those who heard it begged that not one more word should be spoken to them, 20 for they could not stand that which was commanded, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned".* 21 So fearful was the appearance that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."**

How is the mountain described and how did Moses react?

** Quotation from Exodus 19 v 12 and 13*

*** Quotation from Deuteronomy 9 v 19*

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable multitudes of angels, 23 to the festal gathering and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,* and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better than that of Abel.

How is Mount Zion described?

** Reference to Jeremiah 31 v 31*

25 See that you don't refuse him who speaks. For if they didn't escape when they refused him who warned on the earth, how much more will we not escape who turn away from him who warns from heaven, 26 whose voice shook the earth then, but now he has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens."*

What are the consequences of refusing the one who warns from heaven?

** Quotation from Haggai 2 v 6*

27 This phrase, "Yet once more" signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken, let's have grace, through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.*

What should our response be to receiving an unshakable Kingdom?

** Quotation from Deuteronomy 4 v 24*