

From Amos 5:21-24

“I hate your holy days
and despise your festivals;
I am not moved by your solemn gatherings.
Your offerings are rejected;
I ignore your slaughtered gifts,
Spare me the sounds of your hymns,
and let the music of your lutes fall silent;
I am not listening.

Rather let justice well up like water,
let righteousness flow like a mighty stream.”

From Isaiah 58:3-9

You ask Me: “When I fast, why do you ignore me?
I starved myself, and you paid me no attention.”
I will tell you why:
Because you fast for personal gain, and oppress all your laborers!
Because you fast and yet continue to sow strife and violence...
Your fast has nothing to do with what I desire,,,
This is the fast I desire:
to break open the shackles of wickedness;
to untie the cords of injustice;
to free the oppressed and put an end to evil.
To share your bread with the hungry;
To house the homeless in your homes;
to clothes the naked and not ignore the needy among you.
Then your light shall burst through like dawn,
and your healing will swiftly spring up...
Then, when you call, I will answer;
When you cry, I will say: Here I am.

From *The Hebrew Prophets—Selections Annotated and Explained*, Translation and Annotation by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Skylight Paths Publishing, 2004

