During His ministry, Messiah named 12 of His disciples, His apostles or sent ones, that would bring the message of salvation to Yisra’el. The names of the twelve apostles are:

1. Shim‛on, who is called Kěpha (Peter)
2. Andri, his brother (Andrew)
3. Ya‛aqoḇ, the son of Zaḇdai (James)
4. Yoḥanan, his brother (John)
5. Philip (Phillip)
6. Bartholomi (Bartholomew)
7. T’oma (Thomas)
8. Mattithyahu, the tax collector (Matthew)
9. Ya‛aqoḇ, the son of Alphai (James)
10. Laḇai, whose last name was Taddai; (Lebbaeus)
11. Shim‛on, the Kena‛anite (Simon)
12. Yehuḏah, from Qerioth (the betrayer) (Judas)

There are three Ya’aqobs (James)

1. James, the brother of John, one of the Twelve
2. James, the son of Alphai, one of the Twelve
3. James, the son of Joseph and Miriam, the half-brother of Messiah who was NOT one of the Twelve, but did become the chief pastor of the Assembly in Yerushalayim and writer of the book of James

These Twelve ministered primarily to the House of Judah, that was in the land at the time, and the “Lost House of Yisra’el” spread throughout the world.

Paul was NOT one of the Twelve, or a disciple of Messiah during His ministry. Paul was a Pharisee, who was a disciple of Rabbi Gamli’el, one of the most famous rabbis in Jewish history. Gamli’el was the grandson of Hillel the First, who started one of the most famous religious schools of his time, along with Rabbi Shammai.

The House of Shammai and the House of Hillel were the two largest schools of Jewish religious thought in the time of Messiah. The House of Shammai was the larger and more influential house of Jewish religious thought during Messiah’s life and ministry and He spent most of His ministry countering their traditions.

Though the House of Hillel was less influential in that time, they still demanded a lot of respect and would later become the more influential house of the two as time went by. The teachings of Hillel has much more sway today then does those of Shammai, and there have been many subsequent rabbis that hold tremendous sway over Jewish thought today.

Paul was a zealous practitioner of the Jewish Religion of his time.

**Gal 1:13**  For you have heard of my former behaviour in Yehuḏaism, how intensely **I persecuted the assembly** of Elohim, and ravaged it.

**Gal 1:14**  And I progressed in Yehuḏaism beyond many of my age in my race, **being more exceedingly ardent for the traditions of my fathers.**

He even approved of the killing of many of the brethren.

**Act 7:58** and threw him [Stephen] out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named **Sha’ul.**

**Act 7:59** And they were stoning **Stephanos** as he was calling and saying, “Master יהושע, receive my spirit.”

**Act 7:60** And kneeling down he cried out with a loud voice, “Master, do not hold this sin against them.” And having said this, he fell asleep.

**Act 8:1**  **And Sha’ul was giving approval to his death**. And on that day there was a great persecution against the assembly which was at Yerushalayim, and they were all scattered throughout the countries of Yehuḏah and Shomeron, except the emissaries.

**Act 8:2**  And dedicated men buried Stephanos, and made great lamentation over him.

**Act 8:3**  **But Sha’ul was ravaging the assembly, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, putting them in prison.**

Sha’ul is Paul and before he was met by Yahushua on the road to Damascus, he persecuted the followers of Messiah.

**Act 9:1**  But Sha’ul, still **breathing threats and murder against the taught ones** of the Master, having come to the high priest,

**Act 9:2**  asked from him letters to the congregations of Dammeseq, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, to **bring them bound to Yerushalayim**.

**Act 9:3**  And it came to be, that as he journeyed, he came near Dammeseq, and suddenly a light flashed around him from the heaven.

**Act 9:4**  And he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Sha’ul, Sha’ul, why do you persecute Me?”

**Act 9:5**  And he said, “Who are You, Master?” And the Master said, “**I am יהושע**, whom you persecute. It is hard for you to kick against the prods.”

**Act 9:6**  Both trembling, and being astonished, he said, “Master, what do You wish me to do?” And the Master said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you shall be told what you have to do.”

**Act 9:7**  And the men journeying with him stood speechless, hearing indeed the voice but seeing no one.

**Act 9:8**  And Sha’ul arose from the ground, but when his eyes were opened he saw no one. And leading him by the hand they brought him into Dammeseq.

**Act 9:9**  And he was three days without sight, and did not eat nor drink.

After this, Paul would begin teaching the Good News of Yahushua Messiah. Though he spent many years teaching Yahushua to Jews in the Synagogues on Sabbath, he had been called to be an Apostle to the Gentiles, a job he was uniquely qualified to do.

He ministered first to the Gentiles that were already apart of the Synagogue Services and would later branch out to others in Athens and to the Gentiles in Rome, where he was imprisoned.