Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, but God was the one who directed his path to save mankind.

The Jews and Romans crucified Jesus, but God sent him to save the world. He died for our sins. Therefore, repentance from our sins is an important part of our salvation (Acts 20:21, Heb 6:1, Luke 13:3, 5).

While it is true that God is not willing that any should perish, it is also true that God wants you to repent (2 Pet 3:9). Forgiveness always follows repentance (Luke 17:3-4). Repentance must come first (Mat 3:2, 4:17, Mark 1:15, 6:12). When you repent of your sins, God will forgive you.

Joseph led his brothers through a series of circumstances, attempting to bring them to repentance. That is the same way the Holy Spirit works on the lost person.

A PICTURE OF SALVATION (GENESIS 45:1-18)

- **Vs 1** After Joseph's brothers repented and came to him for salvation (life sustaining food), bowing before him, the Bible says "**There stood no man with him**" while he made himself known unto his brethren.
 - When you get saved, it's as if no one else is in the room with you, but Jesus Christ.
 - That is when Jesus made Himself known to you. You had heard about Jesus, but now you truly know Him.

- **2-3 He wept aloud**. Joseph is the one who was overwhelmed and overflowing with love and joy.
 - Jesus Christ is thrilled, happy, excited, and full of love and joy when we repent and look to Him for salvation.

Vs 4 Come near to me, I pray you.

- Once you are saved and born again, Jesus wants you to come near to Him and stay close.
- He reminded them of their sin against Him, but only so they could appreciate His forgiveness (vs 5).

- **Vs 5 Be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves.** God sent me before you to preserve life.
 - God knew we were sinners before we committed any sins. He prepared a way to forgive us before we were ever born.
 - Once you are saved, the Lord doesn't want you looking back to your past sins and letting them trouble you. He wants you to be free to come close to Him and enjoy the fellowship.

- **6-7 For these two years...and yet there are five years**. Joseph told them that God was going to *continue* to preserve them throughout their future days.
 - This is a reminder of the Lord's great deliverance: past, present, and future. Whatever troubles might come our way, the Lord will be there to sustain us and get us through.

Vs 8 It was not you...but God.

• You did not crucify Jesus Christ. He gladly laid down His life for you at the request of His Father.

- **9-11** Haste ye...and go...and say. Tell them what I have done for you.
 - The Lord wants us to go tell the world what He has done for us so that others will also come to Him.
 - We were brought, convicted, forgiven, drawn nigh, given victory over past sins, and given hope for the future. Now we need to go out into the world and bring others to Jesus.

12-13 Behold...my glory...and all that ye have seen.

- If you keep your eyes on Jesus, you will not have any trouble obeying His command to go tell others about the Savior. "Looking unto Jesus..." (Heb 12:2).
 - o You don't need great Bible knowledge to tell people what Jesus did for you.
- There is an urgency seen here: "And ye shall haste and bring down my father..."
 - As soon as Jesus saves you, don't delay; go tell someone.

- 14-16 Pharaoh (type of the Father) heard of Joseph's brethren coming to him, and it pleased him.
 - Jesus said, "He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father..." (John 14:21). It pleases the Father ever time a sinner repents and comes to His Son, Jesus Christ.

- **Vs 18** Joseph prepared a place for his brethren to dwell (vs 10).
 - Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us to dwell (John 14:1-3) where we can be with Him forever.
