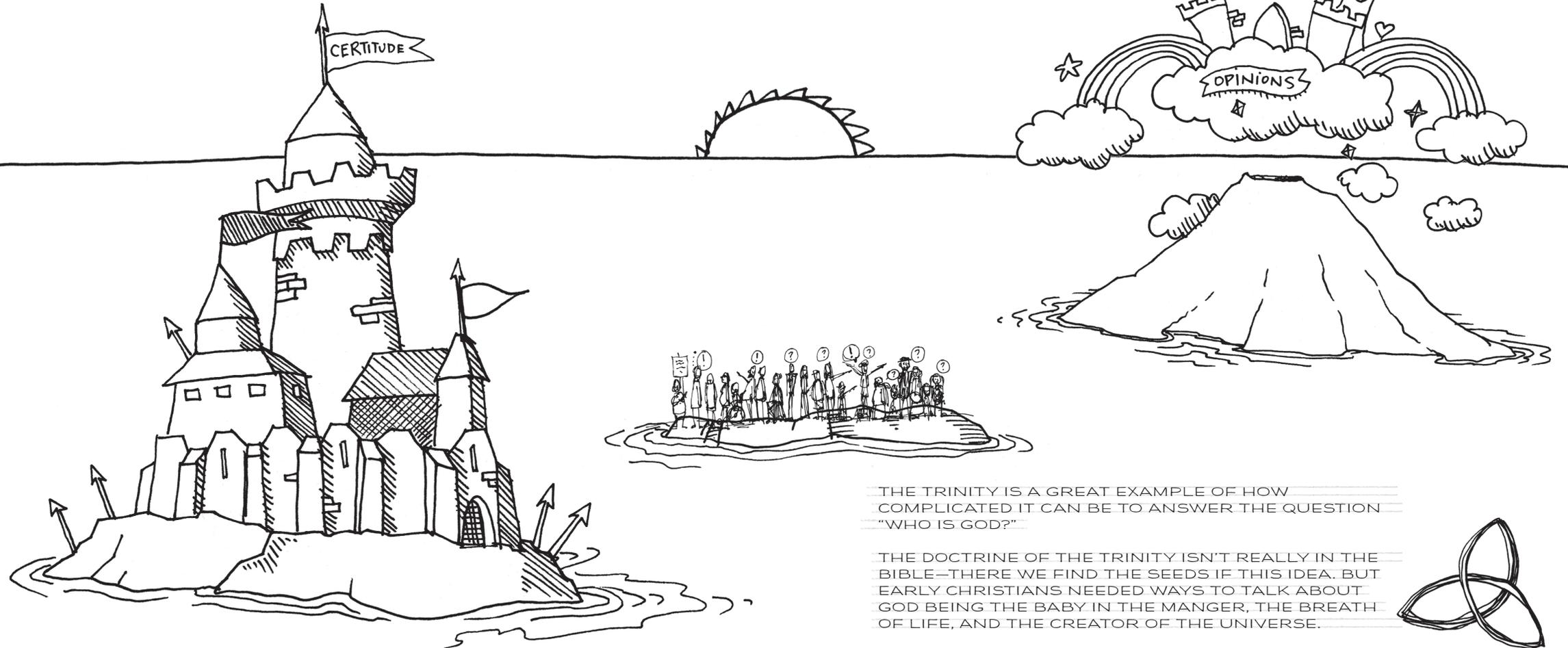


"IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE SENSE OF GOD,
BRIAN SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE PUSHED
OURSELVES ONTO TWO ISLANDS:

ON ONE, WE GATHER AROUND AN IMAGE OF GOD
AS A FORTRESS, OUR STRENGTH AND SHIELD.
GOD IS OUR ROCK—SOLID, UNCHANGING, STEADY.

ON THE OTHER, WE FIND OURSELVES HOVERING
AROUND A FLOATING CASTLE ON A CLOUD, WHERE GOD
IS FOGGY AND SPECULATIVE. GOD IS EVERYWHERE
AND NOWHERE. GOD IS UNKNOWABLE, MYSTICAL,
AND FAR OUTSIDE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE."



THE TRINITY IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW
COMPLICATED IT CAN BE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION
"WHO IS GOD?"

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY ISN'T REALLY IN THE
BIBLE—THERE WE FIND THE SEEDS OF THIS IDEA. BUT
EARLY CHRISTIANS NEEDED WAYS TO TALK ABOUT
GOD BEING THE BABY IN THE MANGER, THE BREATH
OF LIFE, AND THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.



BY THE 5TH CENTURY, WE HAD A DOCTRINE OF THE
TRINITY, BUT IT'S A CONCEPT MANY OF US STILL HAVE
A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING.