destroyed—perhaps in the early seventh century—and rebuilt as two separate smaller churches within the original space. Finally, in the wake of the Arab attacks, the bishop abandoned his palace by the harbor and moved to a church about a mile and a half outside of the city.

The fate of Ephesus—much reduced in size but nevertheless still a center of production and habitation—was echoed in many cities circling the eastern Mediterranean in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. Elsewhere, the urban centers of the Byzantine Empire became little more than fortresses in the course of the seventh and eighth centuries. Constantinople

**Figure 2.1**: Late Antique Ephesus

SAVING BYZANTIUM  43